

CSU October 5, 2010 – Reflection for Justice for All

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A week prior to JFA's visit during my freshman year, a Christian preacher spoke on the CSU plaza. He was from my own new church – Summitview Community – and he was going to preach on "why all religions aren't the same." He had some flash cards depicting people of various faiths whom the world would call "good people," but each time when I saw him speaking, other students around him were yelling at him, and he often yelled back. I could just feel the tension that the other students felt; if someone tells you that you're a damned sinner, you don't usually get the vibe that he or his Leader gives a care about you. Referring to evangelism, apologist Ravi Zacharias advises "intent is prior to content." I knew this man's intent, but his content did not make that clear, and that made all the difference.

Frustrated and worried that even more students on campus now stereotyped Christians and our own Christ as ignorant and judgmental, I was relieved to hear from my friend Kenzie that Justice for All was coming to our campus. She explained the love strategies of this organization, which focused on speaking the truth in love yet not carrying a spirit of timidity. I know that God's voice is more powerful than thunder, yet is quick to have mercy on us and understand us. This exhibit embodied both mediums through which Truth travels.

Before the seminar, I skimmed through the *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* manual, looked at the exhibit online, and proceeded to ask my roommate the two questions. I turned back to my computer, but she wanted to continue the conversation. Just as the manual foresaw, the conversation turned to moral relativism. My roommate is still pro-choice as of today, but because of the dialogue sparked by two simple questions about abortion, my roommate no longer believes in the absolute relativism of truth, and that's a great place to start. I continue to pray for her daily, and I feel as though the Holy Spirit may already be knocking on the door of her heart.

After my class on Tuesday, I headed toward the exhibit with excitement. I honestly had forgotten some of the training since it was so quick, but I figured that God would give me the words and allow me to have fair yet effective conversations. Most people I talked to over the course of the day were pro-life, since these people were the ones who felt most comfortable standing and looking at the exhibit. Most pro-choice supporters were walking around with condoms, cardboard signs, and "No on 62" flyers containing a whole water park of slipper-slope fallacies. Both sides liked to be in their comfort zones on the plaza, bearing their signs and opinions to each other so that the majority around them would support them. I realize now that it's important that pro-lifers and especially Christians know the facts about abortion and what God thinks of it, but spreading the truth to proponents of abortion is especially important.

I found a couple pro-choice women at the free speech board with sunglasses and cigarettes, and began a dialogue. They seemed to know their stuff – when it came to women. When I inquired about the life (or non-life) of the baby, all of their criteria for life included double-standards. I used the drowning-toddler metaphor when they brought up dependency as defining life, but the

conversation always switched to the situation of the woman. It didn't matter if the baby was human or not to them; the mother was, and she was all that mattered because of it. When they brought up rape, I didn't know how to respond. They eventually had to leave, and I asked my friend Kenzie how to respond to the rape argument. She responded wisely and compassionately: you must express your concern for the woman, make sure that you get across the need for that woman's justice and the man's punishment, but also the fact that the child shouldn't have to pay for his father's crime.

We both walked around together and found a man at the free speech board. He had some interesting, almost pantheistic beliefs. One of the main things he said was that he believes in "love," which he defined as not listening to the mind (possibly similar to nirvana or moksha in Eastern religions). The beliefs were so broad that it was hard for us to establish a dialogue, so we mostly talked about his beliefs, and then he left. We brought the conversation by Trent Horn, a volunteer, and he brought up a great transition: "would you consider all of this" - pointing to the exhibit - "love?" It's encouraging to me that any conversation can always be diverted back to the truth; as Paul says in Acts, God is not far from each one of us, nor is He far from what every human being longs for.

The most impactful part of the day for me was speaking to Jon Wagner with my friend Cassie. He told us of the difficulties that JFA had in reaching churches for the cause of abortion, which is not just the cause of the organization, but the cause of justice - the cause of Christ - so it is all of our responsibilities to fight justice and stand up for those being led to the slaughter.

I did not feel satisfied in the impact I made on that day. After cleaning up, I left the exhibit wonder how I could *not* do anything and just move on with life with thousands are being denied it daily! The next day, the CSU newspaper had an article on the front page called "The Power of Protest" - speaking on the so-called unity of all of the pro-choice students rising against the exhibit itself! Justice for All had a much smaller article and picture below. I remembered 1 Peter 4:12-13 - I shouldn't be surprised, but I should rejoice! I know that we're making a difference, and in some strange, unfathomable way, God's glory has been revealed through all of this. Jesus is always telling us to do good works in secret so we won't boast - I bet he is working wonders in people's hearts all around campus, even though some are hardened against Him, and we don't even realize it. My God is sovereign, and He is mighty to save. I am confident in this. And I am not giving up now that the exhibit is gone. I'm going to invite my brothers and sisters at both my home church and my new church home in Fort Collins to join me in speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We need to join together as one body of Christ, because that voice needs to be over fifty million voices strong. And by the grace of God, justice *will* win.

As Paul of Tarsus said, "Only let us live up to what we have already attained!" God has already won this battle for us, and here we are fighting it. As mature Christians, let us all come together and press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us - and that prize is Life.