

Lightbulb in Los Angeles

Training thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions...

Impact Report



Sept. 2015

Last week, I arrived in Kansas after spending all summer in China. I had an amazing time there, and I'm excited to share a few stories from the trip in next month's newsletter.

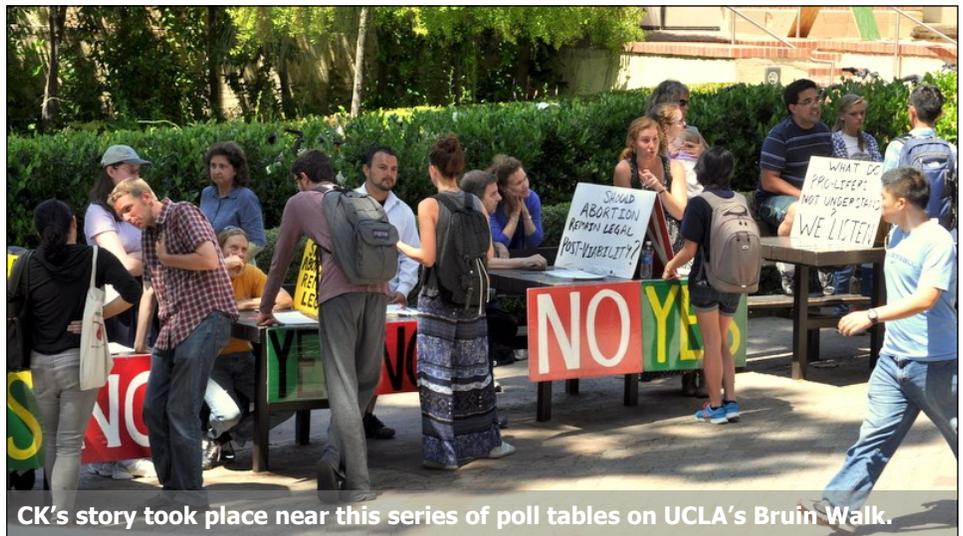
Just before I left the United States in June, I participated in JFA's outreach events at UCLA along with 48 other staff members and volunteers. Among those volunteers were mission trip participants from Houston, Nebraska, Central California, and China (University of Kansas student), who have already taken what they learned back to their communities.

In this Impact Report, my co-worker CK Wisner tells the story of one of her conversations from the UCLA outreach. It's a great example of the different kind of conversation we train pro-life advocates to create in Los Angeles and beyond.

Joanna

...one person at a time.

I almost didn't talk to her. It was the morning of the second day of our outreach event at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). "Jenny" was standing across the walkway, and I was uncertain if she had seen our "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" poll table question. She appeared to be lost in thought, and I didn't want to be a bother to her. I immediately began an internal argument with myself about all of the reasons why I shouldn't talk with her.



CK's story took place near this series of poll tables on UCLA's Bruin Walk.

The longer Jenny stood there, the more I felt like I should ignore my fear of interrupting her day. I approached her and asked if she had an opinion on our question. At first she seemed hesitant to talk to me, but as the conversation continued, I learned that Jenny *did* have an opinion. She believed that if a child was going to be born into poverty that abortion would be justified. I listened to her concern and acknowledged that growing up in poverty would be extremely challenging. In response to her concern, I used a conversational tool that we teach at Justice For All (JFA) called "Trot Out the Toddler" (TOTT)* to help refocus the conversation on the central question, "What is the unborn?" After discussing the humanity of the unborn, Jenny agreed that abortion was wrong in most cases, but she still had one very serious concern.

Jenny asked me about the issue of a woman having to care for a child conceived in rape. I took great care to share just how evil I think rape

"You just turned on the lightbulb for me. I realized we've been talking about the woman, but there is a child involved in this, too."

- "Jenny," a UCLA Student

is and how we need to take better care of the woman in that situation. After spending a significant amount of time talking with Jenny, I shared another belief that I hold strongly. I said, "You know, often when women are in the midst of an unwanted pregnancy, pro-life people come alongside them and say, 'Don't get an abortion!' What if, instead, we said, 'Let me help you'? I think we need to do a better job of coming alongside the woman and the unborn child inside of her."

After a short pause, Jenny looked at me with eyes wide. She said, "You just turned on the lightbulb for me. I realized we've been talking about the woman, but there is a child involved in this, too." She then asked me what she could do about abortion. She went over to our "Should Abortion Remain Legal?" poll table and signed the side that said "No." I gave her the JFA Exhibit Brochure and showed her how to share it with a friend. I also gave her the contact information for a local pregnancy care center so that if she ever encounters someone considering an abortion, she herself could say, "Let me help you."

I'm so thankful that God enabled me to face my fear and talk to Jenny. The fruit of that conversation has shown me how a small step can accomplish a lot. I pray that God continues to strengthen her to take a stand for unborn children.

-CK Wisner, for the JFA Team

* Scott Klusendorf (Life Training Institute) gave us our initial formulation of "Trot Out the Toddler." For a step-by-step explanation and dialogue excerpts, see www.jfaweb.org/tott.



Marcos Espinoza (center), a staff member with Right to Life of Central California, interacts with UCLA students in front of the JFA Exhibit on Bruin Plaza.

Recent JFA Events

May 30 - Seminar - Carlsbad, CA - 70 attended

May 30 - Seminar - Ventura, CA - 45 attended

May 30 - Seminar - Playa Del Rey, CA - 21 attended

May 31 - Seminar - UCLA - Los Angeles, CA - 5 attended

June 1&2 - Outreach - UCLA (pictured)

29 first-time volunteers, 10 returning volunteers, 10 staff

June 29 - Seminar - Baton Rouge, LA - 61 attended

June 30 - Outreach - Louisiana State University

61 volunteers (including first-time and returning volunteers)

July 20 - Presentation - Elgin, NE - 5 attended

July 21 - Workshop - Hastings, NE - 30 attended

July 22 - Workshop - Broken Bow, NE - 18 attended

July 23 - Workshop - Lindsay, NE - 33 attended

July 24 - Presentation - Madison, NE - 18 attended

July 28 - Presentation - Lincoln, NE - 10 attended

July 29 - Presentation - Columbus, NE - 21 attended

July 30 - Workshop - Madison, NE - 19 attended

August 2 - Presentation - Columbus, NE - 10 attended

August 9 - Presentation - Houston, TX - 8 attended

See More Pictures and Updates from JFA's Recent Events:

www.jfaweb.org/recent-updates

