



# JUSTICE FOR ALL

Training Thousands to  
Make Abortion Unthinkable for Millions,  
One Person at a Time

**John Michener**

*Oklahoma & North Texas*

*Newsletter*

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Dear Friends,

Thanks to committed partners like you, my support level has reached **56%**, and I was able to spend last week doing outreach work at Pasadena City College. After organizing and recording my thoughts and experiences, I will share several stories in my next newsletter.

If you are not receiving this newsletter by email also, please send me a quick note at my email below. The online version will contain links to additional information and points of interest.

## **"Talking Heads"**

Ever notice that on TV news shows, no one is allowed to say more than a sound bite? Even in what passes for dialogue these days, the commentators just take turns throwing platitudes at one another. Talking heads are nothing more than animated bumper stickers.

When it comes to abortion, it sounds something like this: "I'm pro-choice because it's my body, and you should stay out of my womb," says one talking head. "Well, you're wrong because abortion stops a beating heart," says the other talking head. Cut to commercial.

Sound bites, billboards, and bumper stickers do serve a purpose, but we are mistaken if we think they will save lives all by themselves.

Speaking of sound bites, one of my favorite college professors, Avon Malone, was fond of using pithy sayings. He used to say, "Brethren and Sistern, we've got to stop sittin' on the premises and start standin' on the promises!" Or during football season he might say, "We need to break the holy huddle and run a play!"

Brother Malone understood that we in the church are really good at seat work. From Sunday mornings, to retreats, conferences, and seminars, we love to go and sit to learn. There

is a time for seat work, but there is also a time for feet work.

Transforming lives, whether it is others' or our own, occurs only when we are challenged by putting our learning into practice. Professional ball players study film and subscribe to their sport's journal, but reading all the tips and techniques will never transform the beginner into an effective player without the challenge of exercise and practice. At some point we must put down the Bible or the devotional handbook and go practice that which we have studied and profess to believe.

Carrie, one of our volunteers from Fresno, said, "Another important aspect of the [JFA] training was practice. We progressed from being given information, to following examples on how to use it, to actually using it ourselves. This aspect really helped me gain confidence that I could be effective in conversing with others on the subject of abortion."

If we are going to change the hearts and minds of the next generation about abortion, it will not come about through legislative attempts, billboards, or bumper stickers. Talking heads on TV news shows slinging slogans back and forth is not going to change minds or save lives. Change will come about because Christians left the pews and took to the streets to engage this generation in true dialogue, one person at a time.



**"We've got to stop sittin' on the premises and start standin' on the promises!"**

## **Upcoming Events to Remember in Prayer**

- June: Training at Camp LUJO KISMIF in Lawton, OK
- July-August: Presentations at churches around the region
- September: Training at Focus Leadership Institute

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## Stories From Around Campus

**From Darcy Parker:** "The training that was provided was absolutely exceptional. I have been to talks and presentation[s] concerning abortion but never learned the 'hands on' approach like I did with the JFA training. . . . One [conversation] was with a girl . . . who I could tell was really touched by the exhibit. Through our conversation I found out that she was pregnant and was keeping the baby because she had already aborted a child and could not do that again. She told me that if she had known what abortion really did to a child she would never have done it. . . . [S]he was not upset at us having the exhibit but was thankful. She was glad that somebody was out telling the evil of abortion since the clinics and society won't tell people."

**From Marc Ruiz:** "I was speaking with an African-American gentleman. . . . He said . . . 'I am personally against abortion; however, I do feel that, particularly as a man, I have no right to tell a woman what she can and cannot do. It's not really my business. I am impressed by the pictures though; I had no idea of the level of development of the unborn at the weeks you guys show.' . . . I used Side 2 [of the exhibit] to



turn the discussion to . . . slavery. . . . So, how would his viewpoint work then? It would be like saying, 'Hey, personally, I am against slavery. I think African-Americans are human beings and should be treated as such. However, . . . if you want to own a slave, please, be my guest. . . .' The gentleman thought for a minute about what I said and replied, 'That does seem a bit ridiculous now. . . . Maybe I should rethink this.

Thank you for the enlightenment.' With that, he walked away."

**From Steve Gillis:** "JFA trains you to communicate, shoulder to shoulder, not face to face. . . . I think the students here at KSU felt safe to approach the exhibit because of the tone and respect that was displayed by the JFA group and volunteers. . . . [I]n the 30+ conversations I had with students that day, every one of them . . . turned positive. . . . I believe it was because of great training, truth on our side, and prayer. I felt equipped when I went out that day. I really do believe that we can change the mindset of the next generation one heart at a time. I saw it happen."



**From Leila:** "It was also exciting to be able to convince one woman that life begins at conception. I . . . was able to show her the fallacies of her thinking. After a friend and I finished talking to her, she said, 'I never thought of it the way you showed me. You can call me pro-life now.' She took a Justice For All brochure, and agreed to show it to a friend."

**From Allie Hahn:** "Before they [JFA] came . . . I also hadn't really thought about the pictures being graphic. . . . I completely understand people not liking the pictures, because they are kind of in-your-face. . . . However, . . . I understand that these pictures do save babies' lives. They do start conversations that could even lead to salvation."



I would especially like to thank those who have shared emails of encouragement and prayed over me this last month. God is at work in what we are doing together.

Yours truly,

*John Michener*  
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