



JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

John Michener
Oklahoma & North Texas

Newsletter
October 2010

Dear Friends,

Ever notice that children love sea stuff? It does not matter if it is mud or a mussel, if it came from the ocean, they love it. This reminded me of the starfish story which has been adapted in various forms from *The Star Thrower*, by Loren Easley:

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" At this, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "I made a difference for that one."



Penny Noel Michener

Whether you look at the starfish as a life or a soul, it makes a great metaphor for the work we are doing at Justice For All. Speaking of that work, I want to share what my daily work is like.

First, **I recruit training partners.** In September I spent several days meeting with high school principals and teachers to coordinate training for their students.

Second, **I arrange outreach opportunities** on university campuses where trainees can practice their Christian

ambassadorship skills in real life with people who really disagree. On other days this month I met students at the University of North Texas. Those students have formed a pro-life organization called Eagles For Life, which will host JFA training and outreach on campus in November. With encouragement and support, they will be active year-round and will continue to host JFA events in the future.

Third, **I train students and volunteers** in pro-life apologetics and Christian ambassadorship skills. We will be training students at the following schools in October: Christian Heritage Academy, Southwest Covenant School, Community Christian School, Oklahoma Christian Academy, and Oklahoma Christian School.

In Denton, Texas our current training partners include Denton Bible Church, McKinney Street Baptist Church, Eagles for Life, and North Texas College Republicans. Pray that all of these students and volunteers would be skilled and gracious ambassadors for Christ.

Fourth, **I minister on college campuses** during our outreach events. Outreach events are a chance to find starfish that need to be put back in their proper environment—a relationship with God. Our trained volunteers come to outreach events to "go fishing," as Jesus invited his disciples to do in Matthew 4:19. During these times, I am both an active participant in the outreach, having dozens of conversations per day, and a mentor to those we have trained. As a mentor, I stay close to trainees as they dialogue for the first time, in case they need assistance. We debrief after conversations so we can learn from our experiences. We pray together for divine guidance in each conversation and that the Holy Spirit will change hearts and minds as we share the truth.

Finally, **I encourage repeat work.** We refer to the three parts of our JFA training as Seat Work, Feet Work, and Repeat Work. While JFA may provide the spark and resources for a church or school to get into the community to change the culture, ultimate success will depend on continued trips to the beach. Once we become star throwers, we should not stop.

Now, let us return to our young, idealistic star thrower. Loren Easley did not tell us what happened to this young man when he grew up, but here is the sequel I imagine.

Later in life we find him again on the beach, but this time he is not alone. He has brought with him his old schoolmates, his family, his friends, and his church family. Together they are a throng. They work their way down the beach, some in pairs, some in small groups, and some

alone. At the end of the day they congregate for a celebration meal. They talk of the joyful day of work together, and they share stories of the beautiful and unique creatures they found and rescued along the strand. As the sun sets, our star thrower looks down the beach and hails his comrades, "Look, everyone! We did it. We saved every starfish on this stretch of sand."



Nadia Michener

This is how we do it. We engage one person at a time to make a difference "for that one." And, when we take others with us, we can turn the tide.

From Shalene Johnson in Denton, Texas:

"The message JFA brings would have changed my life had I heard it at age fifteen when I was faced with an unplanned pregnancy. The consequences of ignorance were far greater than what the difficulty of facing the truth about abortion would have been. Unfortunately, my experience came before I was adequately informed and equipped. Ignorance was far from bliss; it was deadly. I learned that waiting until after an emergency happens is the wrong time to get prepared for helping others or preventing catastrophe for myself.

I later worked at the Women to Women Pregnancy Resource Center. Had the young ladies who entered our door been able to dialogue with a JFA trained and equipped student before their crises, I believe it would have changed them, too.

I have since volunteered with JFA on several occasions, and each time I have gotten to minister to many people. The mission field was right in my back yard. Being out by the JFA exhibit opened dialogue for the gospel again and again. It was truly amazing.

I remember talking with one student who was very angry. I came straight out and asked her when she had her last abortion. This broke down all the barriers. Through tears, she shared her story. As we talked, I shared the gospel with her, and she accepted Christ. I know her salvation was by the power of the Holy Spirit, but God used the JFA exhibit to open her eyes to the truth.

I thank God for JFA and the training they are doing in order to change and save lives."

You, too, can go fishing with us, but you will want to be prepared. Register today for training in your area.

Part 1: Interactive Seminars

Norman, Oklahoma

Date: Sunday 10/31 **Time:** 12:15 – 5:15 p.m.
(pizza at 12:15, seminar at 12:45)

Place: Trinity Baptist Church
801 N. Peters Ave., Norman, OK

Denton, Texas

Date: Sunday 11/7 **Time:** 12:15 – 5:15 p.m.
(pizza at 12:15, seminar at 12:45)

Place: McKinney Street Baptist Church
3000 E. McKinney St., Denton, TX

Register by email to

Maureen@JFAweb.org

Part 2: Campus Outreaches

University of Oklahoma

Monday & Tuesday Nov. 1st & 2nd
Wednesday & Thursday Nov. 10th & 11th
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

University of North Texas

Monday & Tuesday Nov. 8th & 9th
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

I need \$1,600 per month to complete my support. Would you be willing to sponsor a portion of that for twelve months? Would your small group, bible class, or extended family be willing to sponsor another portion? Please call or email if you would like me to come make a short presentation to answer your group's questions. Your generosity brings more star throwers to the beach.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Michener".

John Michener