



# JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

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*Oklahoma & North Texas*

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Dear Friends,

October 31<sup>st</sup> marked the end of the national [40 Days For Life](#) campaign. Christians all over the country prayed, fasted, kept vigil outside abortuaries, and participated in community outreach events. For many, the capstone experience to their forty day commitment was participating in JFA training and outreach.

I just returned to the office after three intense weeks of traveling. We taught students in five high schools, trained dozens of adults, and conducted ministry outreaches over six days on campuses in Oklahoma and Texas. I am excited to share some of those stories in my next newsletter.

## Do You Have an Innie or an Outie?

Man has always infused everyday events with theological significance. This is seen in our habit of raising memorials and Ebenezers. We memorialize the birth of a child with a birthday party, and we raise a frosting covered Ebenezers called a birthday cake.



God, too, leaves his memorial on the child—a belly button. I think the belly button is a special mark God placed upon us to remind us of something important. We have a novel navel, but why? What can we make of this symbol?

Did you know that the natural gestation time for humans is forty weeks? In Genesis we read that during the

great flood, rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. In Exodus we read that it took forty days and forty nights to reveal the Torah. In Deuteronomy Moses reminds the Israelites that they were led in the desert for forty years to be humbled and tested. Matthew recounts

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that Jesus was led into the desert where he fasted and was tested for forty days. There are dozens of other examples throughout scripture of something significant happening in a period of forty. So what do these stories have in common besides the number forty?

In each case God was preparing to birth something new. In the flood, he brought forth a new earth. With the Israelites, he brought forth a new law and a new nation. Jesus was being prepared for a new ministry, the delivery of a new covenant. Whether it was Noah, Moses, the Israelites, or Jesus, in each case the period of refining that each underwent was like the period that babies undergo in the womb. They were all completely reliant upon God.

Perhaps forty is a measure for the fullness of time because it is the natural period of gestation. The belly button reminds us that we were once, and are still, completely dependent on the one who loves us unconditionally. It reminds us that it takes time to mature, for God to prepare us for our mission in the world.

So, the next time you are removing lint from your navel, remember that God is working on you. It may take forty days, or forty years, but in the fullness of time God will mature you and birth you for a glorious life.

## Ministry Changes Us

JFA's primary mission is to make abortion unthinkable, one person at a time. In reporting our successes each month, I usually select stories in which we observe our outreaches effecting positive change in students on campus. But there is another story of change that needs to be told, and that is of the positive growth that is occurring in our trained volunteers because they have chosen to minister with JFA. I have selected three pieces of correspondence which reflect this kind of change.

**From Duncan Wiesemann:** “I came into this outreach with a fairly nonchalant attitude. I was just planning to hang out and see what went on. I wanted to see if I approved of how the JFA staff actually ministered, as well as what the student reaction was. . . . Overall I had a very selfish and me-focused attitude coming into the event. But God really worked on my heart throughout the day. As I saw how my fellow students interacted, as well as the JFA staff, I realized that this wasn’t about a project and it wasn’t about how I felt. . . . It was about the ‘divine appointments’ God had planned, and the hearts He was moving with His Holy Spirit. . . . I was humbled as I realized the unselfish attitudes that many of my fellow students had brought to the event. . . . So for my first day of the JFA outreach I was able to see the quality of conversation that the exhibit creates as well as receive a great lesson on humility.”

**From Mark Sell:** “Through this experience . . . I learned . . . how to love a stranger with the truth. I had never spoken to complete strangers before about any subject, much less abortion. But God gave me the strength and love I needed to reach out and minister to them. . . .

The first day I mostly watched and listened. . . . to see how the JFA staff handled different situations. . . . I saw the disgust on people’s faces as they turned to avoid the gruesome pictures. I saw the mocking and apathetic faces of those who had ‘better’ things to think about. I saw the anger flash through people’s eyes as they felt their defenses rise. And I saw the tears in people’s eyes as they saw, perhaps for the first time, the face of abortion.

I was feeling quite scared to talk to any of these people, even as my heart ached for them. My sympathy finally overcame my timidity, and I spoke to the hearts of the lost, lonely, and hurting faces. . . .

God has taught me the value of every human life through this experience in a different way than I had imagined—in that even the pro-choicers have the very image of God stamped on them, and that I am to be loving and caring for them just as much as for the unborn. I will go into the world with a new heart for those around me.”

**From Kayla Marsh:** “When we got to the campus on Monday I had no idea that I would be so nervous . . . . I spent almost the entire day trying to convince myself that if God had really wanted me to speak to these students then He would have put a stronger burden on my heart. Finally . . . one of the JFA staff (John) asked me how things were going. I told him I had not talked to anyone and, for some reason, I did not really want to. He proceeded to encourage me with how this outreach was . . . about being open to what the Holy Spirit wanted to do with me. I felt really convicted by that, but still did not think I was going to muster up the courage to talk with someone. . . .

At the end of the day, the Holy Spirit really began convicting my heart about how selfish I was for not wanting to engage anyone in conversations. . . . This was my chance to act like I believed His word, and I had failed. Thankfully I had another day . . . .

The second day of the outreach went so much better because I could not wait to talk with someone. . . . I listened in on a conversation between a pro-choice guy and Rebecca that changed my heart about JFA’s outreach. After some discussion about when life began, the guy said that he could not think about life beginning at conception because if he did, then he would have to admit that his mother had killed his brother/sister by having an abortion. . . . It was obvious that he was really struggling with the issue. I saw the Holy

Spirit working in him like I have never seen before in my life. Behind this tough-guy facade was a little boy who did not know what to believe about the value of human life because he himself did not feel valuable. Through that conversation, God showed me that JFA’s outreach was not about arguing pro-life beliefs, but about seeing the real hurts and pains of people who have been influenced by abortion and then speaking truth and encouragement into their hearts.”

Sincerely,

John Michener

