



# 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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## A Dirge for the Unborn

Venus, the bright and morning star, lights the way in the predawn haze. The lead vehicle turns into the deserted main street with its headlights on and cargo in tow. Cars filled with three and four family members file in close behind, headlights glowing. The succession winds through the old part of town. As they arrive at the appointed place, they exit their cars and gather in a circle to pray. Then, it is time. They carry the deceased onto the green grass and lay them down in a somber memorial.



This is not a traditional funeral. The lead vehicle is not a hearse; it is our Justice For All truck towing a thirty foot trailer containing The Exhibit. The Exhibit tells the story of unborn children who have lost their lives by abortion. The cars carry the JFA family who gather to pray at sunrise for the day's work. We carry the exhibit panels out to the campus green and set them up in memorial not to one particular lost life, but to the more than fifty million lives lost to abortion. We perform this ceremony over and over, dozens of times per year.

Funerals are not for the dead, but for the living. The living must grieve and wrestle with haunting questions. Why were these lives lost? What impact and value did these lives have on our own? What does it ultimately mean?

These questions are often painful and unwelcome, yet the struggle to answer them plays a significant role in the grieving process. It can result not just in acceptance, but in a life that is lived with greater depth, meaning, and hope.

Metaphorically, we perform a funeral service each time we display The Exhibit, and we hope to realize the benefits of a funeral. If the last several weeks of outreach activity are any indication, I believe that we are.

## Coming to Grips

One of the things we experience at funerals is mourning. At both Oklahoma University and the University of North Texas we met young women who cried in the shadow of the exhibit. I personally met two such women and was able to offer some words of comfort, but more

importantly, I was able to connect them with an experienced local counselor.

Early Monday morning Pastor Bill Black noticed a female student writing on our Free Speech Board. Her hand was shaking as she wrote, and Bill felt called to talk to her. Becky\* had just found out that she was pregnant and had already decided she was going to abort. She was angry that we were "trying to tell her what to do." Bill signaled to me to come over, and together we asked her to consider that she was carrying a living human being. She seemed very hardened and jaded. Even after I offered to pay for her medical care if she would agree to give the child to me or my sister she would not change her mind. We then invited long-time JFA supporter and volunteer Shalene Johnson, who faced the same decision when she was younger, to join the conversation. You may recall [Shalene's testimony](#) from my October newsletter. Shalene and Becky were able to talk privately for a long time. While Becky did not openly change her mind, we know that she was loved and given the truth, and furthermore, she now knows an experienced, godly woman who is willing to listen and help. Please pray that Becky will change her mind about her baby and about God.

\*name changed

I met another special woman at UNT whose experience with abortion many years ago still haunts her and drives her current ambition to succeed and share the truth. She would admit that her tireless efforts are a type of penance for her past. She, too, needs our prayers for comfort and peace, even after all these years.



Deb Squires, who works at the [Woman to Woman](#) pregnancy resource center in Denton, sent us the following email: "The second day of the exhibit I had to leave at 2 PM to return to the clinic. Three students walked into the clinic just past 3 PM. One asked to talk to someone . . . I spoke with her, and she said she was pregnant and heard about our clinic from the 'people who had those big signs

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of babies up on the campus.’ She made an appointment for the following day and her friend asked about our Post Abortive services. They said they were glad to have seen the exhibit. It helped bring them to the Center.”

### Airing it Out



The [Mark Davis Show](#) is heard daily in the Dallas-Fort Worth market just before Rush Limbaugh on WBAP News/Talk 820 AM and 96.7 FM. Mark’s friendship with Theresa Blake, Chair of the North Texas College Republicans, led him to call me on the air the morning we began our UNT outreach. You can hear the interview at

[www.jfaweb.org/John Michener/Archive.htm](http://www.jfaweb.org/John_Michener/Archive.htm).

### A Rough Draft

Cat began to write on the Free Speech Board: “This display has no point . . .” When she was finished writing I asked her, “Do you really think there is no point? Have you looked at all of the exhibit?” She admitted that she had not studied it in detail and consented to let me give her a tour. After less than ten minutes of conversation she stepped back over to the Free Speech Board where we had started and scratched out what she had written. Above the scribble she wrote: “Changed my mind.”

Nicole Mura was a JFA student at Focus Leadership Institute in 2006. Her story of development as a Christian ambassador is itself encouraging, and you can read it here: [www.jfaweb.org/Reflections/Nicole FFI.pdf](http://www.jfaweb.org/Reflections/Nicole_FFI.pdf). Even more powerful and inspiring is the continuation of her story which she emailed to us just a few weeks ago:

Dear JFA, Today my church hosted a fall event for the less privileged . . . I met Christiana today. She’s 27, has had 7 babies and 2 abortions—the first when she was 14 because she became pregnant after being raped by her adoptive father. Christiana is now 4 months pregnant and has an abortion scheduled for this week. She said to me, “I don’t want to kill him or her, but I don’t want to bring another one here and have the authorities take it [again].” Christiana has had all 7 of her kids forcibly removed from her—each leaving her wounded.

I was able to sit with Christiana. I got her a cupcake (chocolate is her favorite) and coffee . . . and we talked. She has beautiful blue eyes, plagued with hardship and pain. . . . I shared with Christiana that one day I dream of adopting a baby. She said that was nice. I touched her arm and said that if all babies went from the womb to heaven, there wouldn’t be any babies to adopt, but adoption was an option for her unborn baby. She looked at me and said, “There would be someone who might adopt this baby?” Yes, there sure would be. . . . Christiana left the event with a bag of sandwiches, another chocolate cupcake, a blanket, and a fleet of angels following her.

On Monday my mom and I are going to . . . see what we can do to help her. . . . I felt a bit helpless watching Christiana walk out the church doors. Had I shown her enough love, said the right things? I pray so and that this journey with her isn’t over. Thanks for being there for me JFA. I wouldn’t have had the courage to sit down with Christiana if it hadn’t been for the training you gave me. I love you guys.

### Review of Recent Activity

After a long summer of meetings and presentations, that work saw fruit in our fall activities. During a seventeen day stretch from October into November we were able to:

- teach in seven Seat Work Seminars, training 364 volunteers
- mentor and minister during six days of Feet Work outreach, joined at different times by some 185 of our trained volunteers
- conduct five additional presentations at churches and schools, sharing the JFA message and method with over seven hundred people

I am now in the process of following up with students we met to continue the dialogue or help them engage in meaningful activity through local churches and pro-life clubs in their communities. We also made contact with several churches who have expressed interest in hosting training for their congregations in preparation for local mission trips.

In my [November news-letter](#) I discussed the theological significance of the figure forty. How interesting that I arrive at that number once again upon the eve of Thanksgiving. Looking back at 2010, I participated in exactly forty official JFA events, from presentations and training seminars, to campus outreaches. These do not count my numerous networking meetings and appointments which led to many of those opportunities. I am so thankful for each of these divine appointments and the positive changes that they brought about in others and in me.



Speaking of Thanksgiving, I am exceedingly grateful for each of you who has partnered with me through personal encouragement and financial support this year. I hope you, too, have been blessed by hearing the stories and thoughts I have been able to share throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

*John Michener*  
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