



JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

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Oklahoma & North Texas

Newsletter

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The recent disasters in Japan reminded me of an important principle—the principle of *proximity*. What that means is that our first responsibility is to those closest to us. If we take good care of our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities using godly principles, then society as a whole will take care of itself.

Two biblical stories illustrate this principle well. The first, which I have referenced before, is the rebuilding of Jerusalem's city wall, found in Nehemiah. Each family took responsibility for the section of wall closest to its home. In this way, the whole wall was rebuilt, even though no one had to work on every part of the wall.

Another example, which is less well known, is found in Deuteronomy 21:

If someone is found slain, lying in a field . . . and it is not known who the killer was, your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distance from the body to the neighboring towns. . . . Then all the elders of the town nearest the body shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley, and they shall declare: "Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done. Accept this atonement for your people . . . and do not hold your people guilty of the blood of an innocent person." Then . . . you will have purged from yourselves the guilt of shedding innocent blood, since you have done what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

Notice that the city fathers were responsible for evil acts that took place near their town, whether they knew who did the evil act or not. They took responsibility because the blood was shed in their proximity. While we

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do not sacrifice heifers to make atonement these days, Romans 12:1 teaches that we do offer the righteous actions of our lives as a spiritual sacrifice.

The proximity principle is why my work with JFA focuses primarily on Oklahoma and North Texas, but includes other cities in a broader circle where we have close connections. Abortion is actually a big problem globally, but the principle of proximity says that my highest responsibility and greatest effectiveness will come from offering sacrifice for the innocent blood shed in my own backyard.

We all have interests and want to stay informed. We passively follow the news from around the country and around the world, but most of it does not fall in our circle of proximity. However, on occasion something happens which changes the order of things. In the case of our family, we noticed on Facebook that some of our long-time friends are living in Japan. Suddenly, Japan was forced into our circle of proximity. We can no longer be passive; now we must act. How can we help our friends?

In the same way, maybe some of you have passively followed my work with some level of interest, but have not seen the problem of abortion as proximate to you. I urge you to reconsider. You may not know the people involved in getting the 3,500 abortions across the United States this business day, but they are certainly in your community. Furthermore, those abortions are permissible because so many people in your neighborhood and town agree that choosing abortion is a fundamental right.

Like it or not, your neighbor's attitude towards abortion is your part of the city wall that needs to be rebuilt. There are slain babies lying in a field near you. Will you help me take responsibility? Will you, too, offer a living sacrifice of service?

Equipping You

So you want to engage your neighbor, but do not know how to start the conversation? Our job at JFA is to "equip you with everything good for doing his will" (Heb. 13:21).



Of course, the best way for us to equip you is under the guidance of one of our experienced mentors through our training program. However, short of that, here is a great resource that will help you begin rebuilding the wall.

I encourage you to get a copy of *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion*, by Stephen Wagner, our Director of Training. This book will help you start dialogue in your neighborhood. He is currently offering an electronic copy of his book for free at www.commongroundbook.com.

We also have a brand new website. It does a great job of communicating who we are and what we do. You will get an idea of how we can serve your homeschool support group, private school, or church youth group with a tailor-made training program. You may decide to give me a call to organize your group's next fall break or spring break mission trip. You will also find interesting and encouraging video clips and testimonials throughout. Check it out at www.jfaweb.org.

Looking Back

Looking back at our work in Georgia, the JFA team conducted two Debate to Dialogue seminars: one for Fellowship Christian School in Atlanta, and one for the pro-life club and community in Athens, GA. Almost all of the participants were able to complete both phases of training—Seat Work and Feet Work.



Mr. Kirk Bullington, faculty sponsor and Bible teacher at Fellowship Christian, said, "Great job! I would like this training done in all of my 11th grade bible classes, or I would like to use it myself and do the training. I don't think the seat work and feet work can be divided. It's the whole experience that makes it so good."

Meet Ebony, a student at the University of Georgia, whose father is a pastor in a small church in rural GA. Ebony, however, claimed to be a proud feminist and was staunchly pro-choice. After talking in the rain for about an hour, she finally admitted that what she had been saying did not really make sense, and that she needed to reevaluate her position from a Christian worldview.

The following is from JFA trainee Allison Martinez:



I asked a girl who stopped to view the exhibit what she thought. She told me that all of her friends were talking about the JFA Exhibit and saying that "they couldn't get anymore now." I asked, "What do you mean?" She quickly responded, "All of my friends are saying that after seeing [the JFA Exhibit] they can't get anymore abortions. Like, every time they get pregnant they get one. . . . One of my friends got one last month, and it's been ripping her apart."

Our conversation ended well. I showed her how to walk people through the JFA Exhibit brochure and told her how to guide her friend to local post-abortion counseling services.

I saw a woman slowly walking around the small exhibit She seemed curious as to why we were there and what we were doing. . . . She said, "Wow, these pictures are really sad—and graphic." All of a sudden she . . . asked, "Oh is that your poll?" looking at the "Should abortion remain legal?" question. I said, "Yeah, that's us, too." She then said, "I had an abortion a few years ago, so I think I'm gonna go sign yes." I was in shock. She quickly walked away from me to go sign her name under YES. . . . I waited to talk to her, [but] someone else started talking to me. A few minutes later she was gone.

Later in the day . . . I saw her talking to another volunteer. . . . I asked the volunteer who had spoken to her how their conversation went. She said, "That woman is pregnant now and said . . . that she saw the small exhibit earlier and after thinking about it for a while decided she couldn't do the same thing with this pregnancy."

-John Michener