



JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

John Michener

Oklahoma & North Texas

Newsletter

June 2011

The Cookie Caper

Our gracious hosts for dinner after a Monday exhibit were Mary and Steve Pott. After dinner, Mrs. Pott asked if we wanted cookies for dessert. Following her into the kitchen, I asked if there were any really rare cookies.

“Rare? As in cookie dough?” she asked, pulling a tub from the fridge.

“Why yes, that is exactly what I had in mind.” I grabbed a spoon and helped myself to some cookie dough.

“What’s this?” came Bubba’s voice from behind me.

“Rare cookies.”

“Believe I’ll have some, too,” was his matter-of-fact reply.

Once we hit the table, Kellyn and Cathi, two of our trained volunteers, looked longingly at our rare cookies, so I went back and scooped some for them as well. One thing led to another, and before we knew it, the whole crew was joining in. Now, I am sure there were some medium to well done cookies in that house somewhere, but nobody had any. Everyone knows, rare cookies are the best.



Kellyn & Cathi enjoy some “rare” cookies.

Speaking of Kellyn and Cathi, let me tell you more about this dynamic duo who fearlessly engaged in dialogue to change hearts all that long day. It was over the

Just keep quiet and pretend to be pro-life for the weekend. “Okay, I can do that,” she said.

aforementioned cookie caper that they shared an amazing conversion story.

Cathi Carter is an abstinence trainer who travels to schools and presents to students. She also has ties to one of the crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) that regularly supports Justice For All. Since JFA training is so valuable to those who counsel at CPCs, we regularly have CPC staff members and volunteers attend our training program. Cathi had received word of our upcoming training in Colorado and signed up to attend. However, it is a long drive to Colorado, and she did not want to make the trip alone...

Kellyn King has eyes as big as the Amarillo sky and a smile as wide as the Red River in spring. If one had any doubt about where she is from, her accent and her attitude would clear that up as soon as she spoke—this girl is from Texas. Kellyn recently accepted a job which involves counseling high schools students on real-world issues. During some of her engagements she had run into Cathi. The two were merely acquaintances. One day, Cathi approached Kellyn about attending a training seminar with her. Cathi explained simply that the seminar would be about abortion, so it would be relevant to both of their jobs. Kellyn figured it would be valuable professional development, not to mention a trip to beautiful Colorado, and so without knowing anything about JFA, she agreed to attend.

On the drive out, Cathi explained more about our program and how it is geared primarily toward pro-life advocates. That is when it got really quiet in the car. **Kellyn was pro-choice.** Too late to turn around now, thought Cathi. They both kept a good attitude about it, and Cathi suggested that Kellyn just keep quiet and pretend to be pro-life for the weekend.

“Okay, I can do that,” she said.

Cathi and Kellyn participated in Seat Work training at Focus Leadership Institute. They were model students, eagerly participating in the day’s activities, and clearly

understanding the principles of loving dialogue. Their training resumed with the Feet Work portion during our outreach at Metro State College of Denver. Did I mention they were dynamic? They stayed fully engaged with students all day long. They asked questions. They listened. They showed empathy and respect. They got sunburned.

Kellyn's mouth was full of cookie dough, but she finished her story. "Well, y'all, I'm pro-life now!"



Training Trainers

Last month I referenced Megan Bray, president of the pro-life club at UT San Antonio, and that she knew of two babies who were saved thanks to our combined efforts. She and several of the other club members attended JFA Seat Work training and labored with us for almost every hour of the two days of Feet Work outreach. She recently sent us more details on how one of those babies was saved, and it is a wonderful testimony as to how JFA trains ambassadors who train others. Megan writes:

A friend of some of the [pro-life club] members, Tony...had heard about the [JFA] exhibit and then shortly after got a call from his best friend who had just gotten his girlfriend pregnant and was abortion-minded at the time. Tony came to us and asked how to talk to his friend and if we had any information to give [him]. We stocked him with information and helped him as much as we could with tips on how to talk with his friend. Later that week we got a call back from Tony saying that his friend and his girlfriend decided to keep the baby, and he has been checking up with the couple periodically to make sure they are still doing good...

If we teach people how to talk about important subjects and give them experience doing it, then they can teach others how to do it, too.

The following is from Alex Wilkes, one of our Focus Leadership Institute students:

During the bus ride up to UNC on Monday morning I had feelings of uncertainty. I felt that I was prepared from the training and the reading; however... I was very nervous that I would not know what to say during dialogue with a UNC student. During the bus ride back to Colorado Springs my thoughts were very different. I felt very confident in the dialogues that I had, and I was very grateful for the experience that I had. I realized that I... was able to support my beliefs in both the subject of abortion and Christianity...

One of the first conversations I had was with a guy named Isaac... This conversation was interesting, because I was able to get down to why he was pro-life. Isaac was raised in the church, but turned away from church while he was in high-school. I was able to share my faith with him, and he was very grateful for me doing so. His face lit up when I was talking about Christianity and the conversation ended with a prayer for him.

Gary McCaleb, Senior Counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, emailed us last week:

JFA stands alone in its capacity to enlist and motivate college students to engage on the most heated debate in a sane, respectful, and persuasive way. I've yet to see a JFA exhibit fall short of excellence, and frankly it is a relief to see our side engage with the tact, love, and courage that your folks demonstrate.

On Tap for the Team

- June: family vacation
- June: update and edit training curriculum
- June 27-28: Louisiana Right to Life training
- July 7: training at Focus Leadership Institute
- July – August: meet with training partners to arrange fall training events

-John Michener

