

**JUSTICE FOR ALL** 

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

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Oklahoma & North Texas

<u>Newsletter</u> July 2011

## Where's Waldo?

Sometimes it is like trying to find Waldo in the illustrations. Where is that guy? There is a swirling mass of humanity. Faces and colors flash by, but you cannot seem to find the one you are looking for. Then, just when you are about to give up, you see him hidden in the crowd.

It was late in the afternoon, and we were starting to pack up. I was about to call it a day when a little voice said, "There's the guy you've been looking for. Go talk to him." I leaned over the rail and asked the dark-haired student wearing black-rimmed glasses what he was drawing on the Free Speech Board.

"Oh, I just like to draw," he responded nervously.

Sensing his anxiety, I asked what he had drawn, and he pointed out some different emotive faces he had sketched. He kept dodging eye contact with me and shifting his weight from one leg to the other. He was starting to make me nervous.

"So, what do you think about all this?" I asked.

"Oh, I'm neutral. I don't have an opinion since I'm a guy."

"I see. Did you draw that one?" I pointed to an angry looking face with a gaping, jagged mouth.

"Yeah, I'm pretty angry right now."

He went on to explain that his ex-girlfriend had aborted his child when he didn't want her to. He said that even though he was young, as soon as he found out that she was pregnant, he felt proud and ready to learn about being a father.





I let him know that it was normal to be angry after what had happened, and he repeated, "Like I said before, it's cool, I'm neutral."

Just like that, he was backing away. He was entrenched in the anger and denial stages of grief. The conversation seemed to be dying, but he finally turned to look at me a little, so I seized the opportunity to introduce myself and ask his name—it was Aldo.

"Aldo, I'd like to be praying for you, if that's all right," I said.

"Yeah, sure...if you believe in that kind of thing," he responded.

It was not an opening; it was an invitation. We spent the next several minutes focused on what Aldo obviously wanted to know: does God care about him? I did my best to assure him that God does care, and so do I.

If we want to move people closer to God, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. We must meet them where they are. If you look closely at the living illustration around you, you will find Aldo.

## True Evangelism is a Dialogue

I was talking to a student when all of a sudden I heard the high-pitched voice of a street preacher begin to call aloud in the tones of a judgmental prophet:

Every step that you take...is one step closer to death. The Bible says it is appointed once for man to die and then the judgment... A God who is holy cannot allow sin to enter into his presence. So, this abortion problem, or the problem of murder, is not the biggest problem we all have, because we're all sinners...and we're going to be judged by God. If we asked nine out ten people out here if they died today would they go to heaven, they would probably say yes...but that's not what the scripture says, because we're always judging ourselves by the standards we make up.



He did seem to have a handle on the basics. He was certainly proclaiming the truth. The problem was, in that one minute and twenty seconds, I counted over 55 students walk by with hardly a notice of him. No one stopped to listen. Intrigued, I pulled my camera from my pocket and took a short video clip. The clip reveals a stark contrast as this gentleman stands there talking to nobody, while across the courtyard several conversations are taking place between JFA missionaries and students on campus.

Where did we get the idea that standing in a public place and crying in a loud voice is evangelism? When Luke describes Paul's missionary activities in Acts, he repeatedly uses the same word to describe Paul's evangelism. For example, in Acts 17:17 Luke writes, "So he reasoned in the...marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there." He *reasoned*. The Greek word that Luke uses is *dialegomai*, which can also be translated *to carry on a discussion*. The word is closely related to our English word dialogue. It implies that Paul had an audience that was listening and responding. There was give and take. In other words, it was a dialogue, not a monologue.

This is why the Justice For All training program focuses on teaching dialogue. Our mentors teach and model how good Christian ambassadors should interact with those who do not know the truth. I invite you to attend JFA training this year so you, too, can dialogue day by day with those who happen to be there.

### Mom on a Mission

Cortney Hein of Nebraska is a married mother of three young children. She joined us on the Auraria campus in Denver, Colorado, then shared these reflections on her experience: It truly was a life changing experience for me... I felt that the training did a great job of preparing me for the outreach. I feel like most of the points and arguments...were [already]...in my head. However, in my head they were this big jumbled-up mess of random thoughts that I never could have turned into a valid argument on my own. To be taught how to articulate those points was very valuable to me...

I have to say that it was not nearly as scary to start a conversation as I thought it would be. I'm sure part of this is because God makes sure to give you what you need in order to do His work...

Contrary to what I had imagined, most people did not try to avoid entering into a conversation... Something that caught me off guard was the number of people that thanked me for the conversation. I heard from more than one person that **it was the first pleasant pro-life conversation they'd ever had**... I think that really says a lot about how effective and vital the training prior to the outreach is.

Overall, I felt the entire experience was very worthwhile... I feel that it is the responsibility of any...Christian to learn how to effectively handle conversations if they arise in everyday life... I have encountered situations in the past where this training would have come in handy... For anybody who is pondering the training...but is scared, I have to say, **just do it**, and you'll be surprised at what you are able to do if you trust that God will help you along the way.

### Upcoming Event

I will be giving a report on my work, and I will be preaching on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the <u>church of Christ</u> in Copperas Cove, Texas. To our supporters in that area, the girls and I look forward to seeing you.



Thanks for your support!