



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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Back in 2006 I was a fundraiser for Oklahoma Christian University and a new father. My daughter, Penny Noel, would sometimes accompany me on visits with donors who were funding scholarships for OC students. Although she was not a year old, Penny learned a lot on these visits, and soon she became a skilled fundraiser herself. The little shirt that Penny is wearing in this picture says, “Papa’s Little Fundraiser.” It was a whimsical Father’s Day gift from my wife Jayne, which embodied my then current status both personally and professionally.

Penny has decided to come out of retirement for this month only to ask, “Will you support my Papa’s ministry?” You can [donate online](#), or use the coupon and return envelope provided with this newsletter.

Apparel that Appeals...to Truth

Coming across this photo reminded me that sometimes it is easier to do our work with a tool. If our job as ambassadors for Christ is to create dialogue, that task can be made easier with a dialogue tool. At JFA we use our large exhibit, free speech boards, poll tables, surveys, and other interactive tools to help create dialogue.

But you can be your own dialogue tool by wearing apparel that appeals to truth. I have seen T-shirts, wrist bands, necklaces, collar pins, and even rings. You do not have to walk around in a sandwich board proclaiming the end of the world to start a conversation. Just a subtle something to pique curiosity is all it takes.

Our friends in the Abolish Human Abortion club at the University of Oklahoma wear black wrist bracelets marked with the word “Abolitionist.” How curious. “Why does your bracelet say that?” students on campus will ask. What a great opportunity to start a reasonable conversation about human rights, then make the connection to abortion.

My good friend and supporter Peter Hodges heads up a non-profit called Emancipation of the Unborn. He wears a ring that is a solid black band with the number

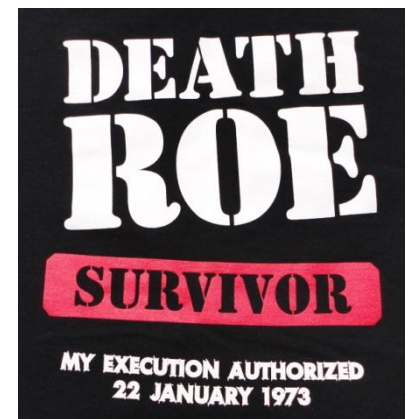
“53,000,000” engraved on it. How curious. “What does your ring mean?” people ask him all the time. What a great opportunity to talk about those fifty-three million American lives that have been lost since the ruling on *Roe v. Wade*.

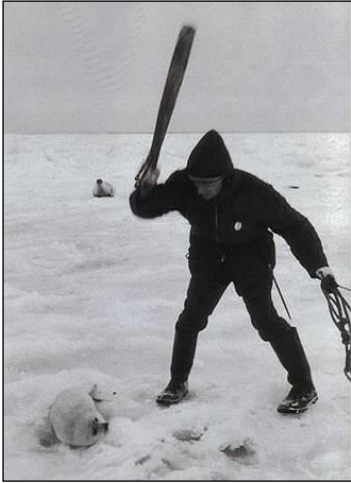
Another long-time friend and supporter, Amanda Noblin, operates www.mother-bearth.com, where she sells hats, shirts, and handbags which celebrate life. Amanda started the company to give women a tasteful and stylish way to support life and to start dialogue. Her sales help pregnancy resource centers across the country.

The type of apparel you choose depends on your confidence level and ability to engage in respectful conversation with those who disagree. Those who are more experienced in dialogue may choose something a little more direct.

Not long ago I took my family out to eat at Irma’s Burger Shack, a great hometown joint where you get to keep a plastic cup to commemorate the visit. I was feeling well-rested and up to having conversation with strangers, so I donned a T-shirt proclaiming that I was a “DEATH ROE SURVIVOR.” On my way back to our table from washing up, three wait staff intercepted me and asked what my shirt meant. I was floored. Two college-age waiters and a manager in her late twenties, and none of them had heard of *Roe v. Wade*. So, I gave them a quick history lesson on the court case and explained that anyone born after that ruling was a survivor if his mom made the right choice. I then asked them what they thought. The youngest guy replied, “I don’t like to talk about these topics in public.” I said I understood that it was uncomfortable, but then I proceeded to explain that in the 1950’s it would have been legal for Irma’s, if they chose, to prohibit blacks from entering the establishment, and further to deny them delicious burgers and fries. I recounted the discomfort of the civil rights movement.

Then I asked him, “Do you think it was good that those civil rights activists talked about racism in public?” The other two nodded their understanding.





In the 1980's, major media outlets, from *Time Magazine* to network news shows, disseminated pictures of baby seals being clubbed so that their fur could be harvested. The public cried out against what they saw, and over time "seal-clubbing" became a metaphor for heartless evil. In 1993 my aunt Molly Lemmons designed and produced a T-shirt depicting a baby seal holding a sign imploring, "Save the Baby Humans!"

We must be willing to "speak up for those who have no voice" (Proverbs 31:8). For some, it is easier to speak up by making themselves a billboard which will help start a conversation. Paul writes in Galatians 3:1 that "Before your eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified." Other translations read that he was "Put on display before your eyes," and "before your very eyes...clearly portrayed." In other words, the crucifixion of Christ, the centerpiece of our faith and our hope of eternal life, was shown publicly, like a billboard, for all to see. We should never be ashamed to publicly proclaim the truth, and if necessary, like Christ, to make ourselves a billboard.

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Friends, do not try this at home unless you are prepared to witness in a loving way. Remember the admonition of Peter: "Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you...but with *gentleness and respect*" (1 Peter 3:15). The JFA training program can help you to be ready.

Upcoming Public Training Seminars

- October 16, Baptist Collegiate Ministry
400 East Main Street, Edmond, OK 73034
Lunch at 12:30 PM, seminar from 1:00 - 5:30 PM
- October 23, Eagle Heights Baptist Church
2617 North Jardot Road, Stillwater, OK 74075
Lunch at 12:30 PM, seminar from 1:00 - 5:30 PM
- November 5, Covenant Church
2644 E. Trinity Mills Road, Carrollton, TX 75006
Seminar from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, lunch at 1:00 PM

Corresponding Outreach Days

- University of Central Oklahoma ~ Edmond, OK
Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18-19
- Oklahoma State University ~ Stillwater, OK
Thursday and Friday, October 27-28
- University of North Texas ~ Denton, TX
Monday and Tuesday, November 7-8

Inaugural Pro-Life Camp

Our typical training partners include pro-life clubs, campus ministries, private Christian schools, and churches. We now add to this list our own camp designed to serve homeschool families. JFA's first Pro-Life Camp will be held at Camp Copass in Denton, TX. Dates are Sunday, November 6, through Tuesday, November 8.

The camp will prepare participants to be gracious pro-life ambassadors for Christ. Participants will gain an understanding of the problems surrounding abortion, as well as an understanding of the opportunities for Christians to minister in this arena. They will learn to make the biological and philosophical cases for life, and they will be prepared to handle the difficult question of rape. Finally, campers will experience the opportunity for evangelism during an outreach event designed to engage them with people in our culture who need to hear the truth about abortion.

We have just returned from training dozens of new pro-life ambassadors at the University of Kansas. I have several encouraging stories to share in next month's newsletter which will be about hometown heroes.

-John Michener

