

My Reflection

By: Darcy Parker, KSU student

Thanks again for coming to our campus....I have had numerous conversations with people concerning the exhibit over the past two weeks. I am excited to see what God has and will continue to do through your exhibit and your heart for the unborn.

The training that was provided was absolutely exceptional. I have been to talks and presentation concerning abortion but never learned the "hands on" approach like I did with the JFA training. Even though I only had a couple of conversations during the two days the exhibit was on our campus the training prepared me for the conversations that I have had since the exhibit left and will have in the future. I know in the days and years to come I will look back at the training manual and will be refreshed on ways to start conversations and ask questions in a gentle way.

There are two conversations that really stick out in my mind that I had. (without a mentor) One was with a girl (probably in her early 20's) who I could tell was really touched by the exhibit. Through our conversation I found out that she was pregnant and was keeping the baby because she had already aborted a child and could not do that again. She told me that if she had known what abortion really did to a child she would never have done it. I was pleasantly surprised that she was not upset at us having the exhibit but was thankful. **She was glad that somebody was out telling the evil of abortion since the clinics and society won't tell people.** She told me that there is not a day that goes by that she does not think of her baby that she killed. I am praying that God will give her a sense of peace about it and that she will be able to forgive herself one day.

The last conversation that I had was one that ***I was able to share the gospel and ended up praying for the young man and inviting him to the Campus Church.*** He totally agreed that abortion is wrong but was very much struggling with the fact that it is a woman's choice and that the government should not get in the way of that. I was able to "trot the toddler" and get his mind thinking about a woman being able to kill a toddler. This got the conversation rolling and I sincerely hope and pray that we made an impact in this man's life.

Participating in this event has impacted my life in several areas. I now know that people can have conversations concerning a very "difficult" topic without getting angry and seeming like you are Bible believing Christians shoving it down their throats. **God also showed me that there are MANY people out there hurting from abortion and they are longing for somebody to love on them and tell them that things will be OK.**

God has provided many ways for our newly established Pro-Life Club to assist those in hurting situations.

Please continue what you are doing!

Darcy Parker

Reflection from Daniel Estabrooks (Middle Tennessee State University)

My experience volunteering with Justice For All was very informative and enlightening in several ways. First of all, I was impressed with how thorough the organization is in preparing its arguments and tactics and in passing on that knowledge to its workers. It's clear that a lot of time and effort have gone into designing the overall display experience to reach as many people as possible in as effective a way as possible. I was particularly impressed with the ability of the display workers to defuse potentially tense situations by showing love and understanding to people who are angry or belligerent. Even in my own experience talking with students who came to visit the display, I was pleasantly surprised that most of the pro-choice students were willing to talk openly and in a non-confrontational manner because they found my style of debate (which I had learned from the JFA training) to be non-threatening.

Secondly, I was surprised to find out just how many people in the college setting (students and professors) are pro-choice. Now, it's possible that this could just have been an artifact of the display. (People who are pro-life would be more likely simply agree as they walk by, rather than stopping to talk.) But I still found it disheartening that so many people agree with abortion and, at the same time, really have no idea why. I came into this experience trying to prepare myself for the best and most logical arguments in favor of abortion, only to find myself debating with people who truly seemed to have no argument for their position.

I think what most impressed me about JFA, as I've alluded to before, is the importance they place on being loving and understanding. Here in the South, we get a lot of these angry preachers who come to campus and do nothing but yell and scream about how everyone is going to Hell. They show no love and certainly get none in return. All it does is start a riot, and nobody is the better for it. Unfortunately, because we're so exposed to that sort of thing, the typical Tennessee college student will initially view JFA's display as more of the same. But the JFA workers genuinely show concern for where people are in their lives and the problems that led to the decisions they've made, and I think that means a lot to southern kids who are so used to being yelled at.

Daniel Estabrooks