

## Charity Boaz (Austin, TX)

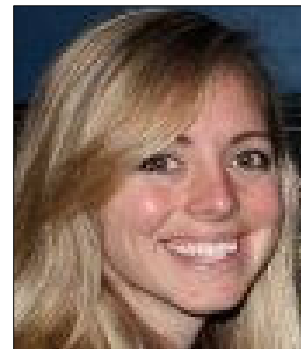
Georgia Tech outreach

March 2010

I met JFA staff member, Jacob Burow, through a friend on facebook. We started messaging back and forth about our jobs. He started telling me about his work with JFA. Immediately I thought it was amazing what ya'll were doing. But I didn't know that much about abortion and didn't feel brave enough to confront others about it. Jacob told me he thought I should come to a training to learn how I could help. He sent me a few youtubes of some JFAers on campus. My first thought was I could never do that. I could never just stand there and get yelled at and cursed at. The guy on the YouTube was Matt and he did such an awesome job keeping his cool! Well the next training was in Georgia and I felt on my heart to fly over and get trained. I was sure I would just stay in the shadow of those who have been doing this for years. I really didn't think I would be good at this whole thing..... Well my first day of training was an awesome experience. It kind of felt like drinking out of a fire hose. The JFA staff was so helpful. But I was still sure that I would let the others do the talking. I thought I would just kind of watch when we were at Georgia Tech the next day.

When we got there the next morning it was raining a bit so there were not that many people stopping at the exhibit and most of the JFA staff was inside at the indoor exhibit. I saw a guy checking it out and the other JFAers were busy with other stuff. So I decided someone had to talk to him and it looked like it was going to be me. I was so nervous. We talked for a good 15 mins and the guy seemed like he was really listening. I think at that point I realized I didn't need all the answers. And if I help someone just get one step closer to being pro life that was better than saying nothing. I talked to probably 15 to 20 more people that day. **The JFAers were very helpful and supportive. I kind of felt like we worked together as one big family. It was awesome!!!**

On the metro ride the next morning it was really crowded. So I sat next to this guy. We started talking about school and other stuff. Then he asked me what I was doing in Georgia. I asked him if he was pro-life or pro-choice. He said "I don't know. What are you?" So I told him pro-life. Then I started telling him about why. I verbally walked him through the JFA handout. By the end of our train ride he filled out the card to get more info and he asked to keep the handout to show some of his friends.



When we got to the exhibit that day I talked to quite a few people before lunch. People that were very mad at us for what we were doing and others that were very thankful for what we were doing. It wasn't as hard as I thought to get yelled and cursed at. JFA teaches you a gentle strength. So you are doing war but you don't have to fight people.

So after lunch time I noticed this guy smoking a cigarette and checking out the exhibit. As I was walking over to ask him what he thought. He started walking off. I asked him if I could just ask him a quick question. He said sure but I really need to go. I said "What do you think of the exhibit?" He looked me right in the eyes with tears filling his gaze he said "My girlfriend just had an abortion." I will never forget that look of agony and pain in his expression. I had to take a walk and just cry for about half an hour. It was so hard to see a man's pain. All I could hear in my head was all the garbage people kept saying about this whole abortion thing not affecting men.

I guess to some all this up I would say JFA is reaching so many people that need to be reached and they are doing it in a kind and loving way. I am so thankful for them and the time I got to be with them! I hope I will get to do more outreaches with JFA in the future!

## Tory Camerer (Norman, OK)

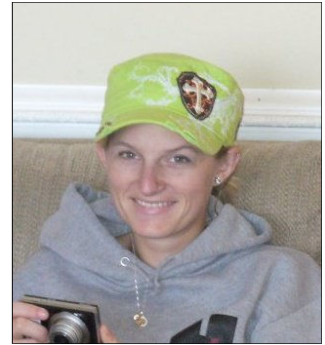
Oklahoma University outreach

November 2010

I just recently finished volunteering with JFA at the University of Oklahoma the past 2 weeks. The first week seemed to be more controversial and heated than this last week. I had some good conversations the first week, but learned some things for the next week. The biggest thing was that I was caught up on one girl defining life as viability, and one of the JFA staff told me as I was sharing my conversation with them, that gaining viability is really just part of human development. My first day out on OU's campus was a Monday morning for about 4 hours. The first conversation I had was with a guy who was pre-med and wasn't really sure where he stood or what he thought. I gave him a quick tour through the mini exhibit, as the big one wasn't up yet. He had some questions, such as "Well, what if the child grows up in a poor home, and the mom isn't able to care for the baby?" So, of course, I trotted out the toddler and said "What if I had a 2 year old, and I had no money to care for me or for my child. Does that make it ok to kill my 2-yr old?" →

...Of course, he said No, I guess not. That was the nature of the rest of that conversation-he had questions, but no one had really been able to answer them it seemed. I told him how important it was for him to think about life and when life begins because he will be a doctor, and doctors are the ones performing abortions, so it's very relevant for him. He had to go to class, but it was an encouraging conversation and I think I left him thinking about things.

The next conversation was with two girls who had been talking to my roommates, when I walked up. One of the girls had walked away and one of my roommates and I were talking to this girl, Sky. Sky was telling us how one of her friends mom wanted her friend to have an abortion, but Sky wanted to learn as much about it to help her friend through it and to convince her to not have one. Well, the second girl walked back up, and we kept talking. The girls asked us what we thought about rape and abortion, so we shared a little about why the baby shouldn't be punished for the sins of the father and that it is a rare situation in which women decide to abort. So, the second girl who had walked up said that her boyfriend wanted to know what abortion does to your body. We shared with her some of the health consequences and increased risks and even emotional consequences. We exchanged emails and followed up with them and are hoping to be able to hang out with the two girls at some point. However, later that night, as my roommates and I were talking about our conversations from the day, my roommate told me that the second girl that had walked up, Shawna, was pregnant and that her mom wanted her to have an abortion, and Sky was trying to talk Shawna out of the abortion. Shawna told my roommate that she had never considered it, **although her mom was pressuring her, but after seeing the exhibit, she definitely was going to keep the baby now.** I had no clue when I was talking to her that she was pregnant! She was only a few weeks along and that's why her boyfriend wanted to know what abortion did to your body. Praise the Lord that we could talk to these girls and SAVE ONE LIFE! We are so excited to be able to get to know these girls more and keep in touch with them, even just for support, as her mom is obviously not supportive of the pregnancy.



I had a conversation with a guy who was Pro-Choice, but for an hour and a half after that, we talking about right and wrong, absolute truth, if morals change with culture, why they don't change, the sovereignty of God, why He defines morals and what Truth is, and then into justice-what is justice, and why is God just and what makes Him just? His heart was hard, and he was definitely a relativist, but I could tell he was really just trying to save face in our conversation.

The most effective aspect of the outreach is definitely just training us to talk to others. **I know many people, myself and roommates included, who would have had no clue what to say if it weren't for the training we received before the exhibit.** The training equipped us to not only be able to be bold in taking the Pro-Life stand, but be reminded of why we do this. It is not for ourselves, it is not for others, but it is for the Gospel. It is because God has rescued us out of the domain of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of light, and of His Son. We stand for Truth and do this to spread the Gospel so that all may know how valuable our lives are.

One more conversation I had, that wasn't even with the exhibit or even on campus was with my brother. JFA came to OU Monday and Tuesday of one week, then Wednesday and Thursday of the following week. That weekend in between the two weeks, I traveled to Arkansas with my older brother and his fiancé. Having been trained and having shared with people on campus for 5 hours one day, I thought it was only fitting that I have a conversation with my brother. So, I asked him how he felt about abortion. We got into an hour and a half long conversation, heated at times, about defining life, which then transitioned into God and defining right and wrong. He is Pro-Choice, and for him, at the end of the day, it comes down to whether you can take away someone's right to do what they want with their body. I told him that is a fundamental difference, and that is not the Pro-Life stand, "at the end of the day." He wanted to know what it was, so I said well, at the end of the day, Pro-Life is about LIFE-it's about the sanctity of human life, and that we are all created in the image of God. I was able to share a lot with him, and although there is a disconnect in his head, and he is not a Christian, it was cool to be able to share with him the Truth.

All in all, I found myself always taking the conversations back to Scripture, and defining right and wrong. I never had a conversation with anyone who was Pro-Life and wasn't a believer, but I know there are those out there. My conversations were all with Pro-Choice, moral relativism, woman's body, woman's choice people. So, the nature of many, if not all of my conversations returned to absolute truth, and if there is such a thing. People are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity (Eph 4:18-19). That is what I had to remind myself at the end of every conversation, and just be driven to my knees to pray for them, but remembering that it's not about me. It's nothing that I said or did during the JFA outreach on OU's campus, it is not up to me whether or not those I had conversations with come to know the Lord. But praise Him for using me in that.