

# Crossroads

## An Open Door for Life Choices

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Dear Friends at Justice For All,

Thank you for inviting us to participate in the recent JFA exhibit at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). I did not initially intend to counsel at the exhibit, but felt the training would benefit us in working with abortion minded clients. While we would not choose to use the graphic photos in our center, the training and event prepared us to minister better in our PRC. It was much more than I anticipated.

The training was excellent, especially the extensive role-playing around the 'mini-exhibit.' The message boards were a real eye-opener! We were taught to dialogue, not debate—that a gentle answer turns away wrath. It was interesting seeing the abortion issue through the eyes of our clients in ways not possible in another setting.

I was amazed that high school students from a local Christian school were well prepared to minister to college students several years their senior. They were gentle, yet truly courageous.

Some specific interactions that I had:

- A young black man's comment, "That's abortion? Man! That's like killing your own kid! Like making something from yourself and killing it!"
- A youth minister, staring at the exhibit said, "I did that. I made someone do that—because I was selfish—to protect my reputation."
- A UCO senior said, "My sister had 2 abortions in her senior year of high school. She has never been the same. We would have been there for her if she kept the babies....but it *was* her choice."
- I overheard this at a message board, "What is all this? You have *this!* (pointing at the JFA exhibit)—and *over there* (pointing at the Pregnancy Resource tables) they gave me this (12-week fetal model) baby, and *over there* (pointing at the pro-choice tables) they gave me condoms with Jesus on them!"
- A young woman who was in much pain and turmoil from an abortion just weeks ago. "Mom knows, but Dad will kill me if he finds out!"

The students totally 'got-it' that we were separate from the JFA exhibit. We had many opportunities to talk with students about abstinence, fetal development, abortion risks, and post abortion healing. The students loved our life-sized fetal models. We handed out over 200 of the 12-week fetal models we had brought. The students took over a thousand pieces of literature. We were pleased with how easily the students came up to our tables to share their thoughts and concerns. Many students thanked us for being there.

Again, thank you for inviting us to be a PRC presence at the exhibit. We look forward to working with Justice For All in the future.

For Life,

Linda Stewart  
Executive Director  
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