

**Student 13306**  
**Focus on the Family Institute**  
**Justice For All Exhibit Reflection**  
**11/11/2005**

To be honest, I was a little wary at the approach that JFA takes. Initially, it did seem somewhat over-the-top, but I realized that this really was different from the abortion protesters who stand on street corners yelling at people while holding giant pictures of aborted babies. Unlike that approach, this provided an opportunity to interact and share truth with others. I was amazed that in the two days, we were there, not one of the students from Focus or the staff from JFA ever raised their voice in a debate or showed any lack of respect to those who disagreed. It was truly in love that we came to share God's Truth.

I was somewhat surprised at the calm and peace that I had as I prepared to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. We had been well trained to understand the various complexities of abortion, to answer any objection, and to address those whom we debated with love and with respect. I was side-by-side with my brothers and sisters in Christ and we were covered in prayer. It was quite an amazing feeling to have a total peace in the midst of an imminent storm.

As we interacted with those students whom we met there on campus God's presence was so tangible. As we debriefed each night, story after story poured in of His faithfulness to protect, to provide words of wisdom, and to bring healing into brokenness. It was simply amazing. At the beginning of our time there, I realized very quickly that the abortion debate is not primarily about abortion or choice. Rather, it is about whether or not there is a God and, if so, whether we are responsible to Him. So my prayer was that God would swing open the doors and lead each conversation toward Him. Our God is so great and faithful! Let me share just a few examples of how He did this.

On the first day, one student began relating the details of her life that had led her to take a pro-abortion stance. She had had an abortion, been abused and abandoned by her family, abandoned by the father of her baby, developed cancer afterwards and was left homeless after months of chemotherapy. Everything in her life told her that no one would take care of her if she didn't take care of herself. After letting her share, we were able to express our sorrow for what had happened to her and tell her of the hope that we have in Christ and how His heart is broken over her suffering. She allowed us to pray for her afterwards and it very well may have been the first time that she had ever experienced love or heard of God's love for her.

On the second day, God answered our prayers that He would bring each conversation back to Him in such a concrete manner, that it was truly overwhelming. After talking with one student for several moments on the facts of abortion and when life begins, she looked at me and asked, "Are you a Christian?" When I answered affirmatively, she asked, "Why?" I've never experienced such an explicit invitation to share Christ with anyone like that. We talked for quite some time about the purpose of life, the love of God, and what that means to us before she had to leave for class. It was an amazing and energizing time.

Following that conversation, I began to walk around in order to listen to some of the other discussions that were going on. I slowed to hear what two other Focus students were talking about with one of the college students there. As I approached, the student looked right at me and asked, "So what do you think about God, morality, Truth?" And so began another invitation to share my hope in Christ. It truly was unbelievable.

The time spent during these two short days has given me such a different perspective on other people, on life, and on God's command for us to be witnesses of His Truth. It has helped me to see each person, not as an enemy, but as an individual who has been deceived by *the* Enemy. My heart was broken to see the suffering that these people had been through and the lies that they have believed. At the same time, I gained such a confidence in God's Truth and its' power to break deception. I saw how hungry people are to know truth and to know that there is a purpose to their existence and a cause greater than their own. In light of the shattered, broken world that is longing for what we can offer through Christ, how can we not share the Truth and Hope that we've been given?

I actually walked into this experience feeling very excited. Most of the people I spent time with the night before and that Monday morning on the bus were a bit anxious and nervous, but I did not feel that way. I know the reason I was so excited to get there and get started was honestly because I felt so prepared for the experience.

I have always been pro-life, but I would never have purposefully walked into a situation where I had to explain why I felt that way. Why? I did not have fact to base my belief on. I again was humbled in the fact that I was a Christian who believed abortion was taking an innocent life but that is about as far as it went. How sad.

It all changed as I went through the training. It was simple, concrete evidence. It did not look to put people in their place or condemn them for what they believed but merely to reveal truth to them. I was confident Monday morning because I knew I had the truth. I knew I could walk up to a perfect stranger who ,may have a different view of abortion then I and could stand there in love and hold an intelligent conversation with them and possibly change their mind on the issue.

One of the most important things I learned through the conversations I had throughout the day was that people just want to be heard. They do not care who is listening just as long as they can talk and give there opinions to someone. I learned to listen even if I disagreed and in giving them this time, I gained respect from them. I also learned people love to be pumped up. I could inspire a person just by telling them I thought they were great.

For example one girl told me she was studying law. The girl was not really sure what she believed. I did not tell her I was with the group but rather just stood there for about an hour and a half just listening to her. By just asking her questions that made her think and bringing it back to the question what is a human, we were able to decide together that we were pro-life. From this point, I was able to ask her about the laws in place about abortion and what exactly they were and we would comment on how we did not agree with that. She told me about different judges who were in place or running

and I would ask if they were pro-life. We would discuss how widespread abortion is and how important it would be to get people in law who were pro-life. At this point I started telling how excited I was that she was going to be in law. How amazing she was and how important her role would be. I am not kidding that by the end of the conversation I had a girl on my hands who was ready to change the world. The most amazing part was that I felt the presence of the Lord through the whole thing. I felt like I was speaking truth for Him. He gave me words and we impacted people together.

I could not be more thankful to JFA for this opportunity. It stretched me out of my comfort zone and really made me think. The training was great, but just going through the book or the training probably wouldn't have been enough. Knowing that I would be walking amongst people who needed truth really inspired me to pour into the reading and ask questions at the training. I wanted to know it all so that I could impact a life. It was amazing to realize that it doesn't have to be hard to walk up to people and just talk and listen to their hearts. Thanks again for seeking truth and sharing it.

**Student 13349**  
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**October 2005**

#### JFA Outreach Reflection

JFA was a brand new experience for me. I have never experienced any sort of evangelism activity where it was the intention of the program to approach people for a discussion about a particular issue. It was a goal of mine to always maintain a good attitude. I made a decision to do whatever it took to give my all in this activity. However, I spend a lot of time doubting myself. Before my first conversation with someone on the Denver Metro campus, I was unsure how I felt about abortion. I previously believed that abortion was wrong, but I couldn't fathom being so absolute about it. I would have been willing to contend that abortion was sinful, but it should still be considered a viable option. I was crazy, though.

Then I had my first conversation. It was with a pro-choicer named Heather. She was awesome and a blast to talk to. I didn't want to be bullhorn in my conversation with her, so I started off talking to her about normal, everyday things like class and her upcoming wedding. She thought I was just another student looking at the exhibit, so she actually initiated our conversation.

When the dialogue started to steer towards abortion and other issues, I realized how stupid she sounded. I would gently bring up certain points that we learned in training, unsure if I myself agreed with what I was saying, and she would respond with some weak argument that it's the woman's choice. For every point she would make, she had a rationalization.

I knew right then and there that I never wanted to present something as serious as abortion with an ignorant justification for sinful behavior. My mind immediately turned away from skepticism and I'm a devout pro-lifer now. In my mind I knew I wholeheartedly believed in the sanctity of life, but I, for some reason, bought into a postmodern worldview that there are exceptions to everything. There are no exceptions when considering the value of human life. Everyone is valuable-even a bundle of two human cells with great potential for complexity.

My grandfather is a physician, and as part of his practice, he's an abortionist. We have had many conversations about what he is actually aborting. As a Christian, I knew that abortion was playing god. However, the issue of development always raised a question for me. Is destroying two cells killing a human? Absolutely. I am not politically savvy, but I frequently support the agenda behind making laws. Now I realize that it's about protecting the American people from themselves, especially in the issue of abortion.

We live in a fallen world that makes people selfish. I am personally distraught when I give into my sinful human nature, and laws against abortion would protect us from our sinful natures and ourselves. We, Americans in general, are teaching our children how to bow out of the consequences to our actions. If pregnancy is a consequence of a behavior, then we should be accountable to those consequences. As long as we continue to justify inappropriate behaviors, like killing innocent humans, then we will continue the cycle of evil and enable it to be reborn.

Several other conversations with pro-lifers helped me to solidify how I felt about the issue. I was particularly discouraged when I noticed how terrible some people were about expressing their opinions. Most people didn't know why they believed what they did, they just did. Granted, I don't expect everyone to be eloquent and confident in how they feel about abortion, but most people couldn't even come up with one reason for their beliefs. For example, one Christian said that she was pro-life because "God hates it." While that is true, I thought it was a cheap and simple-minded reason. When attempting to have an intelligent conversation with someone who is passionately pro-choice, that excuse won't cut it. That conversation inspired me to dig into the Word to find what God really says about abortion, to find out what the world is really telling people about abortion, and to find a balance in relaying feelings about the issue. Overall, this was a great learning experience for me.

**Student 13332**  
**Focus on the Family Institute**  
**October 13, 2005**

### JFA Outreach Reflection

Anxiety and fear are the two words that sum up the thoughts rushing through my mind as I learned I was going to be participating in the Justice For All outreach at the Denver Metro. *I can't even stand in front of a small group of classmates to give a presentation without shaking and turning bright red, how in the world am I going to confront people I have never met that probably hate me for my pro-life stance?* Thoughts such as this encompassed me the whole week before we actually went.

I will be upfront and honest that I didn't do very much talking at all. In fact, I only talked to two different girls in the entire two days, both in conversations with a few other people, only lasting about twenty minutes each. I wish I could say I got into deep conversations with many people and I was able to change the way people think about issues such as abortion, Christianity and life, but I can't say that I did.

Feeling a little useless on Monday afternoon, I decided to park myself on a bench and pray. I prayed that if God wanted me to talk to someone that He would have to send them my way because I was having a hard time to find someone to talk to.

After about twenty minutes of praying and waiting on God, along came Christy, another FFI student. She sat down next to me and shared with me how talking to people wasn't something she was strong in, and she felt she should pray. So we prayed.

About ten minutes later, along came an African American man who walked by us, stopped and came back to ask us about what the exhibit was all about since they were in the process of tearing it down. We proceeded to tell him about the abortion issue and he was pleased about that. He then went on to talk about how the Holy Spirit prompted him to come and talk to us, and told us how not long before this day we were here, he was on the small plot of land where our exhibit was set up and He saw God claim that area as His – an area where we could speak truth freely. While this man was talking, I was thanking God that He answered my prayer by sending someone to me to talk to, and not only did He send someone, but He also sent a man who encouraged me to be bold, knowing God had come before me.

After the first day at the outreach I was feeling mixed emotions. I was thankful that God heard my prayers and sent the man to talk to me, but I was also feeling like I wasn't being used like most of the other students were. I sat in prayer for a while and read 1 Corinthians 12 over and over about our spiritual gifts. Verse 27 talks about how we are the body of Christ and each person has a part of it. I feel like God was showing me that it's alright if I wasn't right out there in the front line leading debates and discussions.

He made me for a different role, and that was to be in prayer for those who were doing the speaking, and to encourage those people as well. Tuesday went better for me because I felt more at peace about why I was there. I had the opportunity to listen in on three ongoing discussions, but this time I felt of use because I prayed continuously not

only for the students who were doing the talking, but also for the hearts and lives of the students we came in contact with.

Overall, I loved this experience. I have never been exposed to this type of outreach before, so I was just blown away by it! I have never seen college students my age take such a strong stand for the truth in such a way that I saw this Monday and Tuesday.

If I could choose, I would attend another Justice For All Outreach such as this one, but I would rather be behind the scenes, listening to others talk and learning from that. I believe God has gifted me with the ability to be a listener, prayer, and encourager, so I would love to use the abilities as needed at an outreach. I don't think anything should change about the outreach.

The training was very beneficial, and the approach taken seems to be effective in reaching people. I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to participate in such a powerful ministry!