

Justice for All Exhibit: Speaking for the Unborn
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"What do you think?" Standing among crowds that had gathered to stare at a three-sided 18-foot high vivid color display of prenatal development and photographs of actual aborted babies, my wife Wendy and I found that conversations with complete strangers were easy to start with this one simple question. During the course of several days in late October, we joined many others from Triangle Community Church (TCC) on the campuses of NC State University and UNC-Chapel Hill to engage students in conversations about their beliefs on abortion.

Although we had participated in the Justice for All training at TCC the week before, we still felt inadequate as we walked up to the display for the first time at NC State's "Brickyard," and wondered how the Lord was going to use us to reach out in love to students who had been visually and philosophically provoked by the graphic photos.

We soon discovered that God would use the JFA exhibit and the simple question "What do you think?" to open wide the doorways into people's hearts in a way that we had never experienced before. Here we were, absolute strangers, engaging in calm and friendly conversations about deeply-held beliefs and personal experiences with a depth that we rarely reach even with close friends and family.

Melissa, the first student we talked with, was friendly but frank about her pro-choice views. Like many of the students we talked to, she initially was angered by the display but admitted that it caused her to think about the act of abortion in a different light, that perhaps she was not as pro-choice as she previously believed.

With Melissa, and with many others during our time with JFA, we connected on a very personal level despite being at opposite poles on this divisive issue. We saw people make dramatic shifts in their thinking, coming around by degrees, so that they weren't as entrenched in their position as before. Often the shift took place in less than 15 minutes of conversation.

After some discussion, a group of three guys at UNC dramatically reduced the window of time they felt that it was okay to abort as we discussed the pictures of the stages of prenatal development. At first, they agreed among themselves that it was okay in the first trimester.

We countered, "One day it is okay to abort, and the next day it is not—based on an arbitrary time length that is difficult to establish to the day—what has changed inside the womb from one day to the next that makes it morally acceptable one minute, and unacceptable the next?"

They ended up backpedaling all the way to when the baby's heart started beating, which, we pointed out, is at three weeks' gestation. Most women don't even realize they are pregnant at such an early time. From their sobered expressions, we could tell that truth was rushing in, and that they would be doing even more thinking. We were able to give them brochures that had the complete JFA presentation inside, so that they could continue to examine their beliefs.

Since we were discussing people's beliefs, it was easy to transition into spiritual matters, and we were able to share the gospel in the course of a few conversations.

We had the pleasure of examining the differences between Islam and Christianity with a visitor to the U.S. from Turkey. To make a long story short, he expressed great interest in visiting TCC with us before he returns home, and we hope his schedule will allow him to do so in the coming weeks. Next year, he wants to study religion here in the U.S.

We have nothing but good memories from our time with Justice for All on the NCSU and UNC campuses. We could write story after story of how God was moving to reveal truth. In front of this incredible display, it was almost effortless to engage total strangers in peaceful, deep and meaningful conversations on life and death issues, and it was an honor to sense that God was using us to show abortion for what it is to a multitude of people who had never seen it that way. In addition, we were excited to see how easy it was to bridge from life and death issues into spiritual conversations, and to grasp what a powerful platform the Justice for All exhibit is for sharing the gospel.

As we reflect back on our time, we are amazed at how we could come together with so many varied people with myriad beliefs, find common ground, and offer true compassion in a way that was gladly received. We have never experienced such a primed environment for real and meaningful change, and we can't wait to be involved in future JFA exhibits to, one conversation at a time, make abortion unthinkable for millions. And, as a result of our Justice for All experience, we are better equipped to make the most of every opportunity to share what matters most, not only during outreaches, but in our everyday lives.

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