

“Discovering Strength”

When I originally heard about the Justice for All training, I really had no intention of participating. I am pro-life, but I doubted I would have the boldness and knowledge to discuss the immorality and violence of abortion with complete strangers. I attended public school from kindergarten until twelfth grade. My pro-choice friends and I rarely discussed abortion, but if the topic came up, I quickly steered the conversation to something less controversial. If they persisted, I had no idea what to say.

Justice for All was also frightening for me because of the enormous, three-sided display of extremely graphic pictures. I felt that there must be a less sensationalist and disturbing way to further the pro-life movement. However, in reflecting upon the idea, I realized that our American society is exceptionally visual. Many believe only what they see. In addition, a large number of people intellectually know that abortion is destructive, but do not really grasp the concept until they see the photographs of one. I saw them for the first time a year ago and was completely overwhelmed. My pro-life conviction became even stronger as my definition of abortion changed from “killing a baby” to “murder”. The success stories I heard at the information session and training confirmed my conviction to go on the mission trip. Perhaps I could help others understand the sanctity of life as I finally had.

Despite those good intentions, I was terrified as we drove to the University of Kansas September 4th. When I first saw the exhibit, I had to take a deep breath. The fact that I was there seemed unreal. Unlike the angry mob I had expected, the spectators all seemed very calm. After about an hour of merely observing, I paired up with one of my friends to start dialogues with those viewing the exhibit. We engaged in several

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conversations that day. One of the most memorable was with a female pro-choice protestor. I do not think I convinced her, but dialoging with her helped me learn about their argument. This helped me to strengthen my own argument and to anticipate the responses of pro-choice spectators. I met one woman who had recently convinced her sister not to get an abortion. She took one of the exhibit brochures to reinforce that. My friend and I had a long conversation with a biology/genetics major who, before the exhibit, had been pro-choice, but was now “all cloudy again.” He seemed to really see where we were coming from, which was encouraging.

Justice for All was a completely valuable experience for me. Through the training, I now have the knowledge to discuss the issue of abortion so to better promote the pro-life message. In a way, discussing abortion with complete strangers is much less intimidating than discussing it with friends. I hope that since I have now gotten comfortable doing the former, I can do the latter. In short, I was once frightened to discuss abortion, but now I am empowered. Justice for All has given me the tools and courage to fight for the truth. I would gladly participate in it again. Thank you.