

## Reflection for Justice For All (JFA) Spring Break Missions Trip 2007

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Although I wanted to go on the spring JFA missions trip to Auburn University and the University of Georgia, at first I only thought of how I would have no time to rest on my only break in the semester. Little did I know that it would be the most invigorating and uplifting week of my life.



I persistently asked God to take away my fears, and to make each person I talked with a divine appointment. WOW, does He answer prayers! Not only did my fears subside, I feel like God brought me in contact with the people with whom He wished me to talk.

I was able to talk to 3 men who left saying, "Hmm, I guess we really need to go study this issue more." I was able to talk with Liz\* who was adamantly pro-choice and a lesbian.

When I lamented to her that the humanity of the unborn has been taken from them, Liz said, "I know exactly how that feels. People tell me all the time because I am a lesbian that I am not fully human." It was amazing to see

the light bulb go on in her head and see the immediate change in her voice and heart.

Matt\* couldn't stop thanking me (picture above) for bringing the JFA Exhibit to his campus. He told me about his sister who was going to abort his oldest nephew, but decided to call her parents while still in the abortion clinic. Her parents talked her out of aborting their grandson.

His sister's son, his nephew, is now a star baseball player on his high school team. After telling me this story he looked up at the abortion pictures in the JFA Exhibit and said, "That was supposed to be my nephew that I love so much."

### **Yet the person most affected by the JFA Exhibit program is me.**

Since returning home, I have been at such peace with everyone around me. The peace I have is unexplainable I have felt a great longing for deeper and more frequent prayer.

I was blessed to have shared the JFA missions trip with my fiancé, Max. I think only God knows how deeply JFA has affected our relationship. Being able to work for God's glory side by side with the man I am to marry in January has been an unbelievable experience.

A renewed sense of respect and prayer has come into our relationship. This is the most joyful and faithful our relationship has ever been. JFA has taught me to value every human being, born and unborn, as a person created in God's image. I look now at people who would normally annoy or sadden me with compassion and prayerful thoughts.

After we arrived home, Max asked me to highlight my favorite part of the week. "Getting tired", I responded. He looked at me curiously. He knows that there is hardly anything for which I will give up my sleep and that I truly despise being fatigued.

I explained that working with JFA has been at the same time the most tiring and the most fulfilling job I have ever done. Knowing each day that you are waking up to do God's work, and that the fatigue at the end of the day is for an unbelievable cause, has been an incredibly uplifting and energizing experience for me.

Thank you ALL for your hard work and for having such an awesome impact on my life. Thank you for helping me to grow spiritually and teaching me how to do God's work with love and charity.

\* Not their real names.