



Fishing in California...



What are the chances that during a 2 week long trip to California in May, working sun up to sun down each and every day that we were able to take our whole team fishing?

If you're familiar with our training and exhibit schedule, I'm sure skepticism is crossing your mind at the prospect of a fishing outing. We typically leave our host homes for campus at 6 a.m. and often don't return until 9 p.m. after our daily

debriefing. However, I can promise you that we went fishing almost every day! How, you ask? Well, we went fishing for "men." I'm paralleling the verse that Jesus speaks in both Matthew and Mark's Gospels instructing us to "follow Him."

Jesus spent 3 years on earth with his apostles and disciples teaching them how to be fishers of men and how to cast their nets. JFA spends 4 ½ hours in our *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar teaching participants how to also be fishers of men. And then ... we're off to cast our nets and go fishing! On the campuses of Pasadena Community College and University of California San Diego in May, we encountered nearly a thousand fishing opportunities.

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17

I'm excited to share the impact of this 2-week fishing experience from the perspective of several of our mission trip participants who joined us!

Laura Beeson: "By the end of the conversations I had on the first day, the *once* "pro-choice" people, not only cared about abortion, they cared about me as a person. I felt like I had made new friends. On the second day, a girl named Sarah came up behind me and hugged me so tight I almost saw Jamba Juice reemerge from my stomach. She told me all about the university's story (how UCSD is built around the "Tree of Knowledge" library to support leaving your "folly" faith behind.), and how she and a group of friends had been praying on campus for years for an end to abortion. We exchanged numbers and have been talking since!" (Note from Tammy: Laura is planning to become a JFA Intern in 2010!)



Tony George: “I remember talking to one girl who was going into law school. She was very sharp. She told me she was pro-choice and she wasn’t a religious person. She thought it was peculiar that I was not



really religious, yet I held the pro-life position. After explaining how I came to my beliefs and answering some of her questions. She said “Wow, you just took me from not understanding pro-lifers to almost completely agreeing with them.” Another remarkable experience I had was when I approached a man who was about to walk away from the exhibit and asked him if he had ever seen anything like this before. It turned out he was doing an OBGYN residency, and he was performing abortions. I was a little shocked by this, but I quickly found that this man was uncomfortable with what he was doing. He seemed to be sincerely struggling with the concept of abortion. We talked a while and then Steve was able to talk to him. He and Steve exchanged email and I

really hope he converts into an advocate for life.” (Note from Tammy: Tony had such a great experience that he is currently raising funds to become a JFA intern for the Fall Semester and possibly Spring Semester too before he starts dental school in Fall 2010. Please pray for Tony - I believe he is discerning who Jesus is and if he should follow Him.)

Kelly Roberts: “After finishing my second year at Biola enrolled in the Torrey Honors Institute, I have become familiar with the Socratic Method of education. I was very excited to learn at the training seminars that JFA emphasizes dialogue over debate, since learning how to dialogue well has been a key point in my education at Biola. To me, being a JFA volunteer provided a real-life exercise with the Socratic Method on an issue I feel very passionate about. Rarely have I used this method outside of the classroom, and certainly never with strangers. However, once I got past the initial nervousness of starting a conversation, I found that I was usually adequately prepared to dialogue. In doing so, I found that listening well to a person was my greatest tool; this put me in a better position to ask questions. Some of these questions caused the person to reconsider their view or forced them to carry a view to its logical and sometimes wicked conclusion. Most people do not seriously consider their view until they are asked hard questions of it.”



Claire Rice: “I never thought that I could be equipped to talk to people of any age, from any religion, from any country and challenge them on their position. I found myself relying again and again on the three basic “Ambassador” techniques taught in training: ask questions, listen, and find common ground. Three months ago, I would have laughed if you had told me I could hold my own with a Professor of Literature from Japan, a Professor of Philosophy from North Texas, angry and emotional post-abortive women, complacent and apathetic pro-choice people, and passive pro-lifers. I have a notebook full of conversations I had with people whom I will be praying for, some of whom I will be “extending the exhibit” with via email. Thank you for equipping me to lovingly and persuasively express myself.”

Sarah Torre: “As I stepped off the plane in Los Angeles at the beginning of the May Mission Trip, I felt well equipped for the challenges of Pasadena City College and U.C. San Diego campuses. After all, I had previously experienced the thrill, anxiety, frustration, and ultimate fulfillment that surrounds Justice for All’s



campus outreaches. Despite my seemingly warranted confidence, my arsenal of practiced dialogues and perfectly phrased questions could not prepare me for the condemning apathy of southern California students ... [After 2 weeks of numerous conversations] I reflected on my own pride in thinking my reasoning, alone, could counteract the same dispassionate mindset that sentences thousands to death every day. The persistent dedication to logic and patient dialogue that Justice for All diligently teaches is perhaps the only method for effectively combating the unjust ramifications of

relativism. Regardless of how well or how poorly the dialogue responses and questions are rehearsed and used, I learned an invaluable lesson on relying on a source of logic and power much greater than myself to first change the hearts and then the minds of people lost in the void of apathy.” (Sarah is praying about a future internship with JFA.)

Rebecca Haschke: “One of the most memorable conversations was with a student named Phillip. We talked for almost 2 hours. We discussed the humanity of the unborn child and eventually agreed that the unborn child is a human, but...and then he asked questions of overpopulation, rape, economic problems, children living in poverty, a broken foster care system, etc. Each time he brought up another question we always came back to the conclusion that it didn’t justify the killing of an innocent being. If the baby is really a human being it deserves the rights that we do. He finally realized it was a repetitive circle and no matter what excuse was made the end was always the same, murder isn’t the solution. After we discussed the abortion topic for about an hour, he said he understood why it should not be legal. Then he turned the topic towards religion. He had some bad experiences and opinions of certain Christian beliefs but after our “civil” conversation about abortion he wanted to know about my beliefs, etc. I was excited to share and we talked for the next hour about God, heaven, and faith. It was great to sit and talk to someone who was eagerly searching for answers.” (Rebecca is currently raising funds to become a 2- year intern with JFA. She just graduated from University of NE Lincoln.)



Jinny Li (One of the best student club representatives JFA has ever worked with!)

“Personally, this outreach helped me understand how and why my faith ties in to standing up for the unborn. Prior to the JFA event, I was told by my friend to not include my faith when talking about abortion. She feared that the pro-choice side might think the only reasons for being pro-life are religious. I understood her concern. In a world where tolerance is esteemed as the ultimate virtue, Christianity is looked down upon because it teaches that Jesus is the only way “and the way is narrow that leads to life” (Matthew 7:14). Should I share the gospel and turn off the potential pro-lifers? I was very bothered about this

especially when some Christians would rather evangelize than stand up for the unborn. I finally concluded that I cannot neglect the great commission in the name of pro-life and I cannot neglect such injustice in the name of the gospel. I do not think sharing the gospel weakened the pro-life position nor do I think talking about the sin of abortion took away the power of the Gospel. This outreach helped confirm my conviction. I was so amazed at how many people I got to share the gospel with while talking about abortion.”

More Mission Trip Participants

Listening



Being a good Ambassador for Christ



Asking questions



Finding common ground



Thank you for your continued partnership with JFA to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time. What a blessing you are to me and to JFA. May the Lord bless you abundantly for the sacrifices you make for His precious children. Please let me know how I can pray for you.

In Christ,

Tammy

Tammy J. Cook

P.S. Receipts are printed on the 21st of each month. For gifts received after July 20, receipts will be printed and mailed in late August.