

One of the requests we make of students that experience the Justice For All training program is to email or contact 10 friends ([click here](#) to see the assignment). It asks their friends to pray for them as they attempt to put into practice the skills they have learned during the classroom and interactive portion of the training.

We almost always do a planned outreach event in conjunction with JFA classroom training. This is usually the Justice For All Exhibit on a university campus. However, during the summer months, it's difficult to find enough students on a campus, so these past two weeks we took students and campus ministry staff into the public areas of cities (bus stations, city parks, public streets, state capital green areas, etc.) to practice I Peter 3.15.

Non-student outreaches are a first for JFA, but we're pleased to report that the initial outings seem quite positive. Focus on the Family Institute (FFI) students had the benefit of about 4 hours of classroom instruction and interactive role playing prior to taking to the streets with a [4-question survey](#) designed to gather information about knowledge and attitudes on abortion, and create opportunities for worldview conversations.

Here's a sample of one FFI student's reflection on the training and the outreach which she sent via email.

-----Original Message-----

From: Erin R Raley (FFI Student)

To: steve

CC: <david@jfaweb.org>

Sent: Thu Jul 13 02:33:00 2006

Subject: JFA was amazing...thanks for the prayers!

Well I thought I would let you know how it went. As is the theme for this summer, after today, life will never be the same.

My group ended up going to Acacia Park in downtown Colorado Springs. It is a place where majority of the population is homeless. And while I was there to administer a survey on abortion, after each conversation I become more amazed--astonished really.

Every last one of the homeless people we talked to today knew the value of life. The more I talked with these people the less it became about the pro-life discussion and more about my own stupidity. And by this I mean, here I am 21 years old and really I do not have a concern in the world. I am provided for, I am loved and on occasion people actually want me around and yet I still find things to complain about.

And there in the park today where people with nothing more then the clothes on their backs and the few items they managed to shove in to plastic bags, but they were happy. They had a joy that I as a Christian often neglect. The joy of living.

I think so often today we get caught up in what is happening next, we forget about today and worry about tomorrow but for those that I spoke to today in Acacia Park they weren't caught up in anything but just living life. Living life because that's all they had.

We talked to one man who was telling us that abortion would have been a very easy

option for his mother and as he was telling us his story he began to just say how thankful he was. Thankful that she opted to have him even if it meant that he would spend his life in a poverty that I will probably never know. This man had no idea what tomorrow would hold, not sure when he would eat next, no roof over his head and no fluffy pillow to come home to, yet he found abundance in the fact that he was alive. For him living on the streets was a life he was ok with because it meant he was given a chance.

I believe the Lord wanted me to learn and understand that there is a need for pro-life education, but the day I had in Acacia Park wasn't about that--it was about God taking me out of my comfortable Christian bubble and making me face reality. I have been truly blessed and the

God that I serve wouldn't have stayed in the car, gone to get coffee or been somewhere else. Jesus would have been right there in the middle of Acacia Park with a homeless guy who called himself "Snake Man". I don't serve a God that stays in a comfortable bubble. We are called to be stronger than that, so today with the divine assistance I took out a HUGE needle and popped the bubble. I serve a God that offers joy and hope whether I live in easy suburbia or on the streets of Colorado Springs.

Today I learned a very simple lesson, but one that will stay with me forever--whatever your lot in life, whatever you may face the fact of the matter is that you have been given the opportunity to live life, and that my friends, is enough to bring a smile to my face every single day.

And maybe with the help of organizations like Justice For All we can educate enough people so that they too can see that giving a child life is giving him or her a chance to fulfill God's master plan.

God Bless-
In Him,
Erin