STORIES, REFLECTIONS, & DIALOGUE TIPS FROM THE JUSTICE FOR ALL TEAM

Exect

Executive Letter: Steve Wagner & Ashley (2003 Volunteer)

Ministry Notes: Steve Wagner

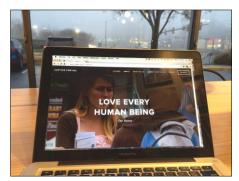
"This experience wasn't a highlight of my week, or even semester, but something I will treasure and remember for the rest of my life." -Ashley, 2003 training program participant

Unburied Treasure

Dear Friend,

In the shadow of the Justice For All Exhibit, Ashley found that God was doing a special work in her life, even as he was working through her to bring hope and healing to three others.

Ashley's story is excerpted on the reverse. It's one of my favorite treasures that we've recently "unburied" from JFA's archives and posted on the JFA website (www.jfaweb.org) to illustrate how God has used JFA (and in this case the big Justice For All Exhibit) through the years. Go on a treasure hunt at



the following pages (see www.jfaweb.org/unburied-treasure for links to all of these and more):

- At JFA's "Stories" page you can find Ashley's story, Christina's story ("Thank you ... you've given me my life back."), Jinny's story ("...sorry if I was a little harsh on you...Anyways I think I'm keeping the baby!"), and more.
- The Stories page has sections that are also their own pages. "Dialogue Examples" is a great place to find over 30 word-for-word accounts of conversations experienced by JFA's staff and volunteers. "Testimonies" features Amanda Coles sharing about a baby she helped save, quotes from our Twitter feed, and links to many volunteer reflections.
- The "Explore Resources" page allows you to quickly find many of the resources available through JFA's website for free.

Check out these stories and resources. Every page of our website is easy to read on any device ("responsive") and easy to share with friends on Facebook and other social media sites.

Please don't miss Ashley's moving story on the reverse, along with ministry notes about JFA's recent activities. Ashley's story is sure to increase your confidence that God is concerned about and at work among those with shame from unplanned pregnancy and abortion. As we are in the midst of building new big exhibits, we pray that God will use these tools to help volunteers like Ashley bring hope and healing to many more students in the coming year.

In Christ,



Steve Wagner
Executive Director

Justice For All Ministry Notes - January 2016

We're hard at work on three projects this month:

- Pro-Life Movement Events (January 21-24, 2016): JFA staff members are making connections with pro-life students and organizations at the March for Life events and at the Students for Life conferences in both Washington D.C. and San Francisco. JFA is also attending the Evangelicals for Life conference in Washington D.C. Read our updates from these events on our blog (www.jfaweb.org/blog) or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/trainthousands).
- New Exhibits: We're aiming to finish the design, printing, and construction of two exhibits by the end of March. Pray for wisdom as we select panels. If you'd like to learn more about the specifics of the project or if you have an interest in contributing financially to help make it a reality, please see www.jfaweb.org/invest or contact me (Steve@jfaweb.org, 316-683-6426).
- Planning JFA's 2016 Calendar: Pray for our connections with college students and college ministries. We'll update you soon with the specifics of our 2016 calendar.

- Steve Wagner, Executive Director

Ashley's Story (Excerpt)

I remember the bus ride up to Boulder, talking, laughing with my friends. All the while, in some of the deepest parts of me, I felt some very familiar emotions being pulled. Babies, unwanted pregnancies, abortion, embarrassment...I began to remember them all.

I know some of the students I was with were a little nervous. They didn't have any experience with this stuff and were afraid they didn't have much wisdom to offer others. In a way it's sort of true. Unless you have been there...unless you know what it feels like to be single, pregnant, in an abusive relationship, maybe even disowned by your family...it's hard to say what you would do. I wish I had been in the same boat with my friends, but I wasn't. I'd been there; I remember what it felt like.

No one will know unless I tell them, I thought. I never considered that God would use me. I was broken, embarrassed, and ashamed. I was surrounded by 87 students who had more character and integrity than I had ever seen and I felt their strong, honorable lives were more valuable than my destructive past. I knew we were all sinners, but my sin was different...you could see it. Everyone else got to quietly discuss their issues with God, while mine was displayed for the whole world to see for nine months. There's a stigma that comes with unwed mothers, especially in the Christian community. Sometimes I still wonder if my Christian friends see me as "Ash" or "Ash that had a baby."

I was intrigued standing around the exhibit, listening to debates, arguments, and people just sharing so vulnerably with strangers that you know a lot about a person after only a few minutes. Everyone was being real and a fire was starting inside me. This issue was so close to my heart.

A year and a half earlier I found out I was pregnant with a guy that I should have never dated. Not walking with the Lord, and all options on the table, I seriously considered abortion. I remember when I made the appointment, I wanted it done as soon as possible and the woman on the phone told me that we had to wait six to eight weeks because the baby was so small right now that they wouldn't be able to tell if they got it all out...

To be continued. Go to <u>www.jfaweb.org/ashley</u> to read about what happened to Ashley's baby and what happened next in Ashley's experience with JFA, when three students "happened" to speak up right near her.

Ashley (name changed for privacy)