



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 27, 2019

Dear Friends of Grace Fontenot,

We count it a privilege to employ some of the most gifted people in the country. We also count it a privilege to serve the one true God, who is the giver of those gifts and who sustains each of our staff members in the midst of very demanding work fraught with painful realities. When God decides to guide one of our dear trainers away from our work, we are mindful of the great gift each person is who works even a day (let alone years) with us to save women and children from abortion.

In a moment, you'll read a different sort of letter from JFA trainer Grace Fontenot than the ones you're used to. Over the next month, she'll be transitioning away from her work as a full-time trainer with JFA. Her letter includes highlights of her work, but I'd like to share a few additional reflections.

Grace has been a rock in our Wichita office, leading training events locally and traveling to California and Georgia and many of the states in between. In the three and a half years she's worked full-time with JFA, I estimate she's personally mentored over 100 pro-life volunteers through both "Seat Work" and "Feet Work" phases of our training program, given presentations to more than 1200, and personally created conversations with over 700 college students. I estimate Grace has spent over 500 hours in planes, airports, and in automobiles to show up to train pro-life Christians. She's weathered days of outreach outdoors in 100+ degree heat and also in rain and snow. Yes, that's right. That gumbo-cookin', bright-smilin' Cajun gal from Louisiana has created conversations with pro-choice advocates in the snow. As you can imagine, we are very sad to see Grace move on from her full-time work with JFA.

Grace excelled at the art of public speaking and mastered JFA content. She is a thoughtful, enthusiastic mentor of our students. She's willing to try new things and embrace new ideas. She has a passion for women and for unborn children. She is serious about her faith, serious about doing quality work, and she's humble when she realizes she's made a mistake. She enjoys good ideas, good coffee, and good jokes. Grace laughs often, and she laughs heartily. We will miss Grace's presence in our meetings and on our team.

We look forward to seeing what God will do in Grace's life in the coming year, we pray for her ongoing discernment process for her professional life, and we look forward to seeing her join us for JFA events again as God allows it.

We thank God for Grace, and we thank Grace also for every early morning, late night, and difficult conversation she beautifully navigated with God's help during her time with JFA. Thank you, Grace.

We also thank *you* for supporting Grace's work by giving of your finances, by reading her updates, and by sharing encouraging words with her. JFA's trainers, including Paul, Jon, Tammy, Jeremy, Susanna, Kaitlyn, and myself, will continue in 2020 to train Christians to actively love women in distress, unborn children, and those who disagree with us. We'll continue to train Christians to create conversations that have the power to change hearts and save lives. We pray that as you reflect with Grace on the good work she's done, that you'll consider continuing to support the work God is doing through JFA. Thank you.

Thanking God with You for Grace,

Stephen M. Wagner
Executive Director



A Farewell to JFA

Thanking God for Our Work Together



GRACE FONTENOT'S FINAL MONTHLY UPDATE



DECEMBER 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

This is a hard letter to write. I won't lie to you, I've procrastinated greatly in beginning it. If you would have asked me even three months ago, "When are you planning to leave JFA?" I would've answered by saying that it'll be when I get married and start having babies.

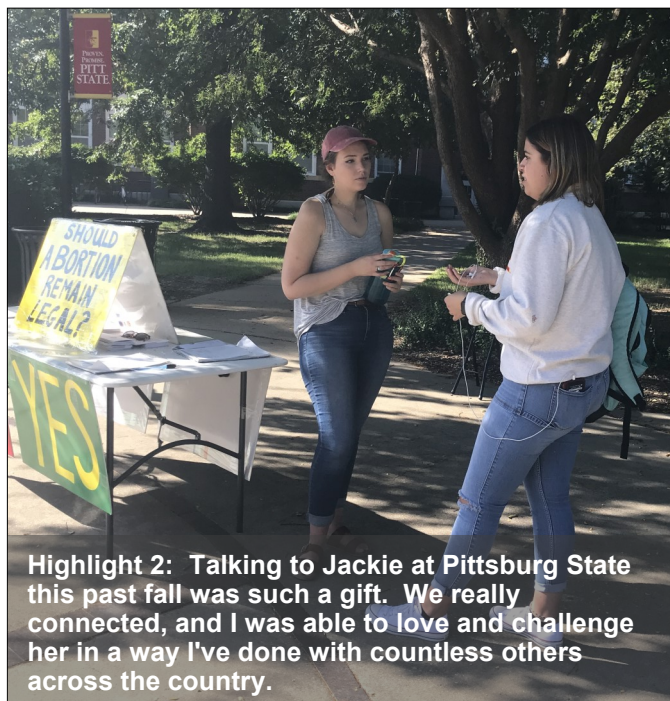
Earlier this year, I confided in Eva, JFA's office manager, that I felt something big was going to happen this year for me. I imagined this thing would be a wonderful thing. I had no idea what it was, I just felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit whispering to my heart that good was coming. As many of you know, I have had a lot of health problems this past year. I am currently being treated for fibromyalgia and adrenal fatigue. These conditions leave me exhausted and in pain much of the time, which has made it very difficult to serve both pro-life and pro-choice advocates in my work with JFA in the same way I used to, and in the way I desire to. I have also had several difficult experiences in my personal life which have left me grieving and in need of a work space filled with less intense and heavy topics, so that I can more fully experience the healing only Christ can give.

Looking back now on that nudge from the Spirit that a beautiful change was coming, it is hard to see this change as good. I never wanted to leave JFA, and in a sense I still don't. I know that God has been speaking to my heart once again, however, this time saying that it's time to go, to rest in Him, and to take time and space for healing, both physically and spiritually. His guidance to step away was surprising and heartbreaking to me, as I love what I do here at JFA, and I love the family I've found in the JFA community of staff, donors, volunteers and hosts. I thank God for how gracious the whole team at JFA has been to me throughout my discernment that I should seek other less heavy work.

Sometimes God allows things we cannot ourselves understand. I spoke with JFA's Executive Director about my discernment in early November and what he said to me that day has stayed with me: "Sometimes God is



Highlight 1: It's hard to describe what the JFA team means to me. We work together like a family to serve each other as we love people who are difficult to love. I'm inspired by each person. I thank God especially for the strong women who have been so influential in my life.



Highlight 2: Talking to Jackie at Pittsburg State this past fall was such a gift. We really connected, and I was able to love and challenge her in a way I've done with countless others across the country.



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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simply asking you to hold His hand in the dark.” I’ve kept this sentiment close to my heart this past month as I’ve discerned what God is calling me to, and ultimately that He’s calling me to step back from my responsibilities at JFA.

In reflecting on my past three and a half years as a trainer with Justice For All, I can’t help but praise God and wonder at His divine will. He has done such marvelous things. I am immensely grateful for the challenges and opportunities to serve in the past three years. The pictures I’ve included in this letter capture some of my favorite memories from these precious years.

In the future, I am excited to continue volunteering with JFA and going on occasional trips with the team. I plan to stay in Wichita, make art, work, and spend a lot of time in prayer.

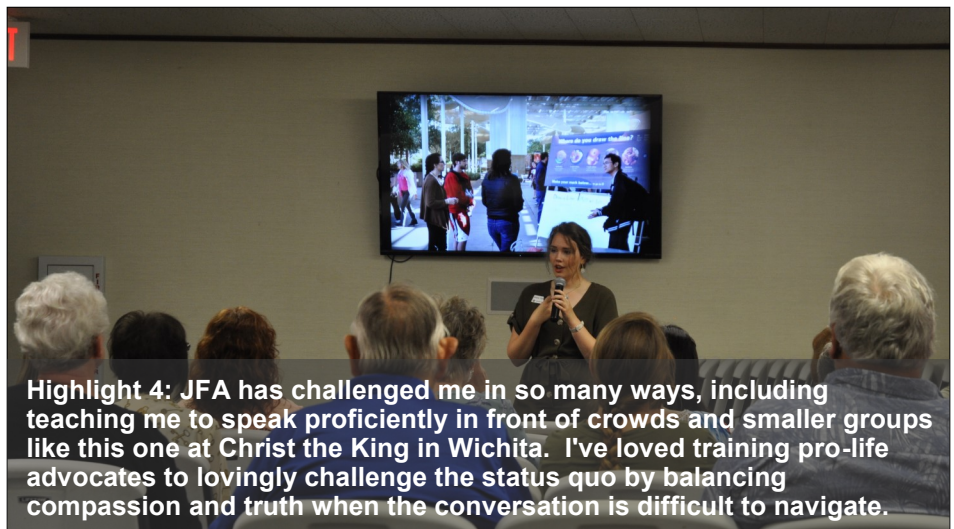
Thank you to all of you for supporting me and enabling me to serve vulnerable unborn children, women in distress, pro-life and pro-choice advocates in the past three and a half years. This has been one of the most impactful, formative, and treasured experiences of my life, and I am truly honored to have been able to serve on the Justice For All team.

Thank you for your generosity and your passion for the sanctity of life. When I first sat down to begin writing this letter, there was only one thing that was in my mind. It’s a quote from A.A. Milne, the writer of Winnie the Pooh: “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

For the sake of His sorrowful passion,



Highlight 3: Susanna Dirks joined the JFA team in 2017 and has since become one of my closest friends. I served as Maid of Honor in her wedding this past year. She’s currently raised about 38% for the amazing work she signed up earlier this year to do with JFA. We’re pictured here at an outreach earlier this year in Georgia.



Highlight 4: JFA has challenged me in so many ways, including teaching me to speak proficiently in front of crowds and smaller groups like this one at Christ the King in Wichita. I’ve loved training pro-life advocates to lovingly challenge the status quo by balancing compassion and truth when the conversation is difficult to navigate.



Highlight 5: This snapshot from UCLA in May 2019 shows precious women who have meant so much to me at JFA. Pictured left to right: Tammy and Kaitlyn are working full-time as trainers. Joanna is a past trainer and our current editor. Rebekah Dyer frequently travels to volunteer at JFA outreach events. Each of these women is amazing in conversation. They have each inspired and taught me so much.

