

WHAT IS THE GOOD FIGHT?

Dear Mission Partners,

This month at Justice For All is all about ramping up for the fall semester mission trips. The long summer months of preparation will culminate in fourteen seminars and fourteen days of outreach on college campuses this fall. As the Justice For All team looks down the road to the months ahead, we are preparing to train thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, but what does that mean? In part, we are preparing rescue operations—operations to save some of the lives that would otherwise be added to the 53 million already lost in our country, and operations to minister to some of the countless others who have been swallowed up in suffering, shame, and sin.

This letter is an invitation for you to join us. Whether as a prayer partner on your knees, or on the mission field with us, join us in the ministry of reconciliation. Don't go another day with blind eyes or a hard heart to the tragedies occurring in our nation every day. Please prayerfully look at the fall mission schedule attached to



We come shoulder to shoulder, not toe to toe, with those who disagree, and we seek to speak the truth to them with the love of Christ.

On the reverse are excerpts from a sermon John Piper gave on February 17, 2002, entitled *How To Kill Sin, Part 2*. It has resonated deeply with me because of how I am witnessing God's work in my life to remove my own sins. At times I am guilty of complacency about abortion in our country. At other times I am full of prideful thoughts, boasting to myself about how much I do compared to others who are not getting involved. John Piper is so right. I know that removing the sin in my own life will allow me to minister with more wisdom and grace.

He challenged me to properly prepare my heart for the upcoming mission trips. I hope you, too, will take the time to read the full sermon or listen to it at:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/how-to-kill-sin-part-2>

Be challenged. Be blessed.

Please prayerfully look at the fall mission schedule attached to this letter and join us if you are able.



Israel is holding our newest addition, Talitha Rose. Israel is the household mother-in-training. She embraces her role as big sister with much gusto and loves to help the real Momma whenever she is given the chance.



Our "Sunshine" continues to radiate life throughout our home. She follows her older sister more closely than a shadow, and she told her Sunday school teacher that she wanted to be her sister when she grows up.



Zarah Grace is definitely her own person. All the worry I caused my mother is coming back on me ten-fold with this little girl. She is fearless and climbs everything, given the chance.

How To Kill Sin, Part 2

Excerpts from sermon
by: John Piper
February 17, 2002

“Jesus said in Matthew 11:12, ‘From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.’ Do you want to enter the kingdom of heaven? Take it violently! But violence against whom – or against what? Listen to Jesus’ answer: ‘If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire’ (Matthew 18:8). Do you want to enter life? Take it violently. Cut off your hand or your foot if you must to keep from stumbling. It’s a picture of the most radical kind of assault on our own sin. Not the sins of others – our sins.

Lay that on top of Romans 8:13, ‘If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.’ *Do you want to enter into life? Do you want to live? Get violent. Get a wartime mindset.* [emphasis added] Stop making peace with ears and eyes and tongues and hands and feet that betray you like Judas, and go over to the side of the enemy and become instruments of sin and make war on your soul. Put to death the deeds of your body.”

Pastor Piper goes on to say,

“I hear so many Christians murmuring about their imperfections and their failures and their addictions and their shortcomings and I see so little war! ‘Murmur, murmur, murmur, why am I this way?’ MAKE WAR! . . . If you wonder how to make war go to the manual. Don’t just bellyache about your failures. Make war!”

“There is a mean, violent streak in the true Christian life! But violence against whom, or what? **Not other people.** [emphasis added] It’s a violence against all the impulses in us that would be violent to other people. It’s a violence against all the impulses in our own selves that would make peace with our own sin and settle in with a peacetime mentality. It’s a violence against all lust in ourselves, and enslaving desires for food or caffeine or sugar or chocolate or alcohol or pornography or money or the praise of men and the approval of others or power or fame. **It’s violence against the impulses in our own soul toward racism and sluggish indifference to injustice and poverty and abortion.** [emphasis added]

Christianity is not a settle-in-and-live-at-peace-with-this-world-the-way-it-is kind of religion. If by the Spirit you kill the deeds of your own body, you will live. Christianity is war. On our own sinful impulses.”

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Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for our upcoming mission trips: the logistics, the staff and their families, the volunteers, and the students we will be ministering to.

2. Talitha Rose Nels was born September 19, 2012! Momma and Talitha are doing great. Thanks for your prayers.

3. God is bringing many new partners along to join in the JFA mission. Please pray for continued growth and opportunity.

I write this letter more for myself than you, friends. I am in desperate need of God’s help and your prayers. I need to make war against my own sin here at home before I hit the road with JFA so I can be the most effective tool in the hands of Christ that I can be, by His grace. Will you join me?

At your service,
Jacob

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“Knowledge without grace produces victories with no converts.”

- Phillip Joseph