

Lydia Wants to Save Others From Abortion Too



JOANNA WAGNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

JULY 1, 2012



Dear Friend,

“You’re not pro-choice, are you?” Lydia looked concerned.

My friend Sarah and I both shook our heads, “No.” Slightly surprised by Lydia’s question, we explained, “We’re here to open dialogue about abortion with people of varying perspectives.” She immediately seemed more comfortable.

Lydia’s next words etched themselves into my heart: “I was actually saved from being aborted. That’s why I’m alive today.” Lydia explained that when her mother had tried to get an abortion, the procedure had failed.

“I was actually saved from being aborted. That’s why I’m alive today.”

As the conversation continued, Lydia told us that earlier that morning some girls in her English class had raised the issue of abortion. Although she had been apprehensive, she had



I help Sarah (right) engage in dialogue with Lydia (left) at Wichita State University.

attempted to share her story anyway. Initially, the girls hadn’t believed her, but she had been persistent in explaining how she had been saved from abortion. She said that they had finally begun to listen, but she hadn’t known where to take the conversation from there.

Lydia had passion, and she even had an amazing story, but she lacked the tools to continue the conversation once she had started it. Over the course of the half-hour that followed, a wide-eyed Lydia talked with us about her desire to learn how to have better conversations and help women considering abortion on her campus. We shared the JFA Exhibit brochure with her, and we described how asking just two helpful questions (“What do you believe about abortion?” and “Why?”) would help her build better conversations. We assured her that, through ongoing mentoring, we could more fully equip her to use her story to both changes hearts and saves lives! She thanked us multiple times for being there and showed genuine excitement about our upcoming Wichita training seminar.

Lydia had passion, and she even had an amazing story, but she lacked the tools to continue the conversation once she had started it.

Like Lydia, many people have a desire to influence others’ views about abortion, and may even have a personal story to share, but they do not feel equipped to create gracious and productive dialogue about the issue. JFA staff members are able to respond to this need by mentoring volunteers - helping them to listen, to ask helpful questions, and to build common ground in every



JUSTICE FOR ALL TRAINS THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

WEB: WWW.JFAWEB.ORG JOANNA’S UPDATES: WWW.TRAINONEJFA.BLOGSPOT.COM CONTACT JOANNA: JOANNA.WAGNER@JFAWEB.ORG

conversation. Through our interactive training seminar and outreach opportunities, mentors prepare and inspire volunteers to create dialogue about abortion within their own communities.

After volunteering with Justice For All throughout my college years, I'm excited to be here in Wichita equipping other volunteers! As a 14-month intern, I am in the process of learning to present all of the *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* training material, and I am working behind the scenes to help make JFA outreach and training events successful.

Please pray for me as I participate in several of these events this month.

Peace and joy,



Joanna Wagner

Results of my Support Raising Efforts to Date

As of June 29, I have reached **45%** of my support goal for my 14 - month internship.

To those who have supported me financially, thank you very much!

If you have not yet joined my support team, please consider supporting me!

July Training and Outreach Events

July 3 - 4: Training Seminar,
Bethany Freedom Festival Outreach,
Bethany, OK

July 7 - 9: Training Seminar,
Wichita State University Outreach,
Wichita, KS

July 16 - 17: Joshua Leadership
Institute Training Seminar,
Louisiana State University Outreach,
Baton Rouge, LA



I guide new mentor, Cody (right), through a small-group session at the most recent *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar.



I talk with an Ethiopian man (plaid shirt) about his concern for women facing crisis pregnancies in his home country.



Catherine (my mentor) and I discuss moral relativism with a student on our third day of outreach at WSU.