

Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

Keep these in mind throughout 2013

Jonathan Wagner - December 2012

I've listed a number of prayer requests to end 2012, but please keep each of these in mind throughout 2013. I'll still try to update you about specific requests each month.

John Michener (Oklahoma) and Jacob Nels (Georgia) are doing a great job of promoting our work in their respective states and helping with our events in other states. Please praise God for empowering them for this work and please pray for them in 2013 as they balance work, family, and other responsibilities. John Michener has put together several events in Oklahoma this last year while Jacob Nels has given many presentations and is now much closer to being fully funded to work in the coming years.

Our five summer interns from 2012 are continuing to impact their communities: One of the highlights of our year was the influx of five special interns this last summer. They all learned significant parts of our training program, flourished during outreaches in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Louisiana, and they continue to impact those around them. One is still working with us (Joanna), three are off at college (Sarah, Katie, and Andrew), and one other (Cody) is working for Louisiana Right to Life.

New long-term interns and staff provide new renewed energy and conviction: Tim Brahm, Joanna Wagner, and CK (Cheryl Kaye) Wisner have all made or begun commitments of one year or longer. Their dedication to balancing truth and love and their desire for excellence has been an amazing blessing. **Tim** has made strong connections for support and networking in California, Georgia, and several other states and just recently moved to Wichita, Kansas for at least the near future. **Joanna** is about half way through her 14-month internship and has blessed our staff and volunteers with her many skills. **CK** has committed to a two-year internship and has been helping us connect more strategically around Wichita, since this is her hometown. See below for more information about CK Wisner.

Pray for the five interns who we are recruiting for this coming summer: Two people have signed on so far for the summer and we are hoping to finish the application process for three others very soon. Several of these interns would likely stay longer than just the summer. This would give JFA much needed flexibility due to an abundance of new speakers and mentors.

Pray for CK Wisner as she continues to raise her support and help us connect with others in Wichita: CK has made great strides in her support raising efforts and is well on her way to full-time work (she currently serves JFA part-time). After her trip with us to Kansas University this fall, CK spoke about her experience for about an hour at her church and firmly committed to long-term work. In a recent letter CK proclaimed, "I had been praying two specific prayers since the beginning of the year: that I would love Jesus more than anything else and that I would truly love people. Those two prayers became real to me when I went on a JFA mission trip to KU. After going through JFA's training seminar that teaches how to dialogue about abortion, I found myself on the campus of KU not only conversing about the value of human life, but also conveying the truth of the Gospel... God calls us to live for Him, and that may mean that we have to take a stand for something that is not very popular. So, I ask you this question: *If the unborn are valuable humans like you and me, why wouldn't we stand for their lives?*"

Pray for our team that designs new outreach signs and other materials: We have several people dedicated to helping us develop new outreach designs. Pray that they'll have wisdom and patience as they seek to create dialogue tools that are challenging, thoughtful, and yet simple.

Favorite Quotes from 2012

From pro-life volunteers to pro-choice students on college campuses, we were able to reach thousands of people, one at a time, because of your prayers, support, and encouragement. Below are just a few of the quotes from 2012 volunteers that stand out to me. These are people you helped us impact.

- "He turned to me and said, 'you know, you're the most intelligent pro-lifer I've ever spoken with about this.' I told him thank you and laughed to myself. I wondered if he realized that I hadn't made a single argument. I simply listened and asked questions." - **JFA volunteer from Georgia**
- "The challenge to be a humble, wise ambassador is powerful. Being as agreeable as possible has set in. I'm in a bit of a fog from the amount of possible pro-choice responses, but I am motivated to review the guide [seminar information] and try out feet-work [Wichita State outreach]. Thanks for what you do." - **Church leader from Wichita, Kansas**
- "Now that I know I can live [my faith] out, I can never go back to being silent. I have gone from knowing practically nothing and being apathetic to having a deep desire to boldly proclaim truth in love - there is no turning back. The seminar and outreach were a major part of starting this fire." - **College student volunteer following Kansas University outreach**
- "It is really helpful to go through everything step-by-step, watch role-plays, and then practice interacting throughout. I was pretty intimidated before coming but I feel like I am beginning to understand how to be diplomatic. I really appreciate your gracious approach - thank you!" - **JFA seminar participant from Kansas**
- "The outreach changed my perspective on assumptions people have and don't have, and I learned how to talk to people very differently. - **JFA volunteer from Texas**
- "At the beginning of our conversation, she was...flat-out furious. At the end of it, she was pleasantly surprised to see that there actually were Christians out there who had the love and respect to sit back and listen to what she had to say." - **High school volunteer from Oklahoma**
- "A young man... expressed that his initial response to our outreach was apathy and annoyance... He was Cambodian... He shared with me that he visited the killing fields and had seen some of the memorials set up to honor those murdered in the Cambodian genocide. Moisture began seeping into his eyes. 'It was horrible seeing the shackles with blood still dried on them, then standing on a field knowing that it wasn't just dirt under your feet, but hundreds of bodies. You're right... even if society thinks that this is okay, we have to do something about it.'" - **College student volunteer from California**
- "I think I have become a better listener. I used to have a lot of stock pro-life statements that I would whip out on a regular basis. Now, when engaging in a dialogue, I really listen to what the other person is saying, taking in their viewpoint, asking questions that help me better understand them, and hopefully helping them to truly explore their own mindsets. - **JFA volunteer from Louisiana**
- "My mentor is amazing! He not only helps generally, but finds where you are and takes you from there. It was a lot to cover in such a little bit [of time] but it generalized well what was REALLY important and worthwhile. Thanks! I gave it a "10" [out of 10] because it was probably some of the best condensed training ever." - **High school volunteer from Texas**