

I write this newsletter in honor of my grandmother, Eleanor Metta Schuhmann Hurt, who died on July 4 at the age of 98. She was the first missionary I ever knew and greatly influenced me and my family to have a passion to participate in and support mission work. She and my grandpa, Marvin Johnson Hurt, worked many years as missionaries in Alaska.



Newsletter from Jonathan Wagner
July 6, 2009

One of Our Best Partnerships

JFA has partnered with Focus on the Family Institute every semester since 2000.

Their mission statement reads, "Focus on the Family Institute, commissioned by Focus on the Family, exists to provide a unique Christian educational community that nurtures passionate and persuasive leaders who are committed to Jesus Christ, equipping them to promote healthy families, vibrant churches and a civil society."

Our mission to train thousands of leaders to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time fits well with their mission which is why our partnership rocks!

Each semester the 88 students at Focus on the Family Institute (FFI) go through our "Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue" seminar (training part I) at their facility in Colorado. We then take them to our campus outreach (training part II). There they use the many skills from our classroom training as they bless and challenge hundreds of people.

Many FFI students are skeptical about our approach before training part I begins but by the end of training part II most of them have had great experiences! They leave with a zeal to lovingly communicate the truth about abortion to their community.

FFI visited the University of Colorado-Boulder with us this April. I was able to help with the training seminar and mentor some of the students at the outreach. Below (& reverse) are just two of the encouraging responses we received from the students:

"I saw a girl park her bike and stand in front of the exhibit and I took the opportunity to just walk up beside her and say "Pretty hard to look at, huh?" She turned to me and gave a half smile, agreeing that it was possibly one of the most grotesque displays she'd ever seen. We ended up talking for about 45 minutes and then she later returned after her class where we talked even more. She was a moderate pro-lifer in her own words but she said the pictures had pushed her more to that side (being more pro-life) where as before she had tended to be more pro-choice." - **Callie Black (FFI)**



It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves



The FFI students from the Spring '09 semester here pictured at the Univ. of Colorado—Boulder in April.

"This experience was something that stretched me very far out of my comfort zone and was something that in the beginning I didn't think that I could do. After completing this experience, I have gained a lot more confidence when it comes to issues that challenge my faith. Even though the main issue that the exhibit addressed was abortion, in the end I feel as if a lot of the conversations ended up relating to the existence of God. I am glad that I was able to take part in this outreach and I think that it helped to equip me for future areas of my life. This issue is something that people need to be aware of and I think that this is the best way to bring that awareness to large groups of people." - **Megan Sabosky (FFI / Cuesta College / San Luis Obispo High '06)**

Thanks so much for helping me reach FFI. Your support helps me equip them every semester.

Prayer requests for July 2009:

- For the spring '09 FFI class as they seek to influence their communities.
- For me as I work on projects in Oklahoma, Georgia, and New Mexico.
- For our new interns, Jeremy, Rebecca, and Tony as they continue raising support.
- Praise God for our long term partnership with FFI.

Are you interested in FFI?

(now called Focus Leadership Institute (FLI))

Contact: Ryan Griffin (FLI staff)
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www.focusinstitute.org

Tell him Jon Wagner sent you!

Verses that continue to motivate me:

Proverbs 24:10-12 "If you are slack in the day of distress, Your strength is limited. Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?" (NASB)

Colossians 4:5-6 "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." (NASB)

Please pray that I will be motivated by these two verses as I continue to work each day. We must all stay motivated to save lives but we must also stay motivated to be patient and loving with each person we talk to.

Defending Human Value together,

Jonathan Wagner
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