

I write this newsletter in honor of two nieces of mine that were recently born! **Nora Jane Wagner**, daughter of Stephen & Rebecca Wagner, was born on December 29, 2009 in Wichita, KS. **Eva Grace Wagner**, daughter of Ted & Brandy Wagner, was born on February 27, 2010 in San Luis Obispo, CA. [She was born prematurely \(24 weeks!\) and weighed only 1 LB, 6 oz. Please be praying for Eva Grace as she develops.](#) Pray also for Ted & Brandy (and Sadie, 3) as they adjust to their new circumstances and schedule.



Newsletter from Jonathan Wagner  
March 8, 2010

## Her Influence Continues!

Going to school full time has not stopped this ambassador from sharing the truth.

Lauren Harrast is taking the truth seriously!

Several years ago she became convicted about the horror of abortion. She participated in our Georgia outreach in 2007, remained focused on spreading the truth in a loving way in everyday life, helped us plan for our 2nd Georgia trip, and then came to work for JFA as an intern in the Spring of 2009. Lauren knew her internship would be short with us because she had already planned on attending Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

She moved to Chicago last fall and has grown in her faith and built great friendships there. She's also continued in so many vital ways to take seriously the truth of abortion and challenge her sphere of influence. **Her persistence is not only effecting many people around her, but it's one of the main reasons we may soon hold an outreach in Chicago!** Let me explain...



We thank God for equipping Lauren!

Far from "moving on to other issues" after her internship, Lauren remained purposeful by challenging classmates with pro-life presentations, mentoring friends in loving pro-life persuasion, contributing to abortion related articles in the school paper, and engaging in gracious dialogue with pro-choice and post-abortive students. One such student from Loyola University said that he was in a pretty heated debate with a friend about abortion and asked Lauren for some "good arguments." She took the time to emphasize the JFA approach. She practiced listening, asking questions, and building common ground. Then she discussed how to have a dialogue about abortion. He said that his friend is pro-life now and they are still friends! **Lauren recalled,**

"When I arrived here, I didn't think I would have much time to focus on the Pro-Life issue anymore, but God had other plans for me! He wouldn't let me forget about the children dying on my street. That made me love God even more—seeing how He was always fighting for the children, even working on my heart to care for them. I keep a JFA brochure on my desk that is folded open to a picture of abortion. I put a sticky note on it saying, 'This is happening on our street. Why aren't you doing anything about it?' It served as a reminder for me to not close my eyes to the suffering and it also stirred many conversations with students."

Can you challenge yourself and others with a consistent reminder of the horror of abortion?

*It will take an eternity for the unborn to defend themselves*

Lauren began praying at the Planned Parenthood (PP) abortion clinic on her street and inviting different people to go with her each week. She told me, "Some people on my dorm floor said that they had never prayed about abortion before, **but now feel called to pray about it often.** At PP we have seen God at work each week! One girl came out of the clinic and told us that she felt so uneasy inside that she decided not to get the abortion and left the clinic. We have also had great conversations with passersby, clinic volunteers, and even the police!"

Can you visit the abortion clinics near you where this injustice takes place to pray and talk to women at least once a month?

After writing an editorial in the paper about abortion, a theology professor contacted Lauren and said that he wanted to help her start a Pro-life group at the school. They hope to bring in speakers for chapel and they've asked JFA to plan on training some of the Moody students if and when we visit Chicago. **This would be a dream come true for JFA!** Lauren continues,

"If it were all up to me, none of this would have happened. But fortunately, God is orchestrating everything. He is even giving me favor with people who I wouldn't have approached on my own. **The wife of Moody's President** asked to be my friend on Facebook and after reading my posts about abortion, she asked to meet with me about it. She has expressed her support and said that she would like to see our faculty trained. She would also like to participate in an outreach and have opportunities to speak with hurting students."

Can you encourage the leadership of your church or school to take the horror of abortion more seriously?

Lauren, like all of us, still has much to learn, but I commend her for doing her best, each week, to expose the injustice of abortion in Chicago and to empower so many peers in such a short time.

**Thanks for supporting me as I develop students like Lauren this spring!**

### **Praises and Prayer Requests for March 2010:**

- Praise the Lord for Lauren Harrast and for His work in her life. Praise Him for convicting Lauren of the truth and empowering her to do many things with the truth!
- Praise God for my sister Joanna as well. She will be coming on our Spring Break missions trip this week! She has been very effective in sharing the truth about abortion and challenging others to also. Joanna attends Wheaton College near Chicago and has committed to helping us have an outreach in that region as well.
- **Please be in prayer for our opportunities in Chicago, IL. We would love to be able to train Lauren's friends from Moody Bible as well as Joanna's friends from Wheaton College. Pray that we can make effective connections at an adjacent public university.**
- Pray for the entire JFA team as we head to Georgia and Tennessee for two weeks. We will train hundreds of people near Georgia Tech, Kennesaw St. (GA), and Middle Tennessee St. and we'll have six outreach days as well !!
- Praise God for helping me make connections this week with several training partners in Oklahoma. **We could potentially train five high schools (300 students) there!**

Defending Human Value together,

  
Jonathan Wagner